KEEP STRONG

- FBI Takes Credit For Hampton Murder
- People's Education
- "Three Year Plan For People's Power"

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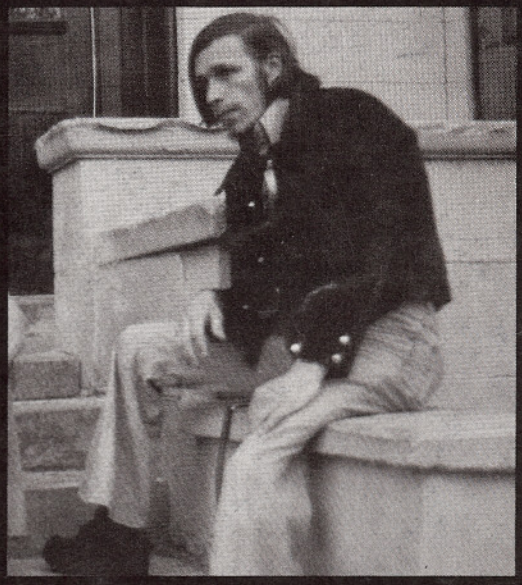
THE VETERANS



HEROES . . . AND THEN?

In This Issue:

1

HEROES . . . **AND THEN?**

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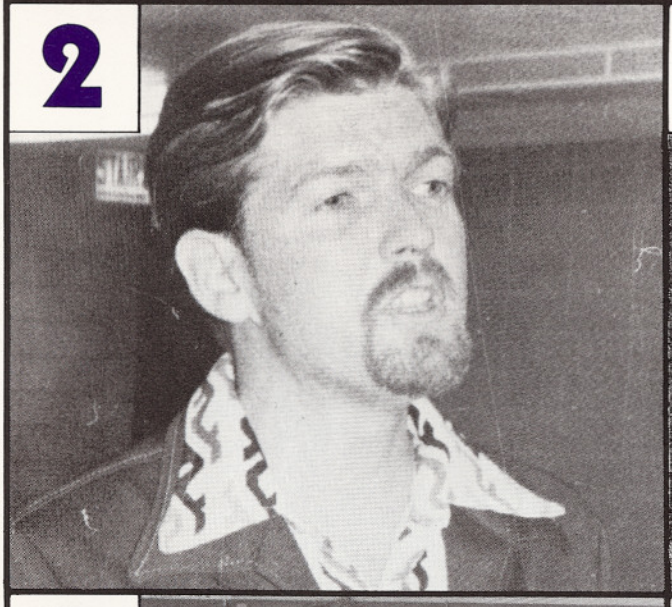

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KEEP STRONG MAY, 1976

COLUMNS

Editorial: Knocked Down, Stepped On and Abused . . . . . Page 2
"On the Street" . . . . . Page 4
Welfare Rights: "I'm Sorry, The Files Say You're Dead" . . . . . Page 6
Food Stamps Cost Too Much . . . . . Page 6
Tenants' Rights: "The Bulldozers Are Coming" . . . . . Page 7
Legal Rights: The Adoption Racket . . . . . Page 9
On the Job: Tootsie Toy: Hard Work and No Protection . . . . . Page 10
Police Watch: Beat Rep in Charge of Justice, Too? . . . . . Page 12
Criminal Justice: Inmates Arbitrarily Transferred Across State . . . . . Page 13
Health News: Health Center Brought to the Bargaining Table . . . . . Page 14
Education: Students & Faculty Protest Cuts . . . . . Page 15
Fighting City Hall: More of the "City's War on Poor People" . . . . . Page 16
Red Squad Files Destroyed by Police . . . . Page 17
Housing Highlights:
Daley has Last Laugh . . . . . Page 18
Tenants Group Organizes Food Co-op . . . Page 18
Senior of the Month:
Cecil Dehenn . . . . . Page 19

National Perspective:
Mission Impossible: Destroy The Black Panther Party . . . . . Page 35
200 Years and Still Not Free! . . . . . Page 36
N.Y. Police Attack Hostos College . . . . . Page 37
Co-op City's Massive Tenants Strike in 11th Month . . . . . Page 38
Intercommunal Perspective:
Armed Struggle in Zimbabwe Gains World-Wide Support . . . . . Page 40
CIA Behind Cuban Fishing Vessel Attacks . . . . . Page 41
Entertainment: Book Review: **Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter** . . . . . Page 42

FEATURES

Veterans Speak Out . . . . . Page 20
"Our 3 Year Plan for People's Power in Chicago" . . . . . Page 23
The Oakland Community School . . . . . Page 28
The World is Our Classroom . . . . . Page 30
FBI Takes Credit for Hampton-Clark Murders . . . . . Page 32

In This Issue

1. What have Vietnam veterans returned to? Have they found justice? See the Editorial, "On The Street" and four special interviews on Page 20.

2. I.S.C. Co-ordinator Slim Coleman spoke at a recent tenants union meeting outlining a three year plan for people's power in Chicago. See Page 23.

3. The ugly face of the FBI counterintelligence against progressive organizations has been further exposed in testimony at the Hampton-Clark murder suit and the San Quentin 6 trial. See pages 32 and 35.

4. Ericka Huggins, Director of the innovative Oakland Community School, which is described in a special feature on "Model Education." See Page 28.

5. Popular Loretta Lynn was in Chicago last month introducing her new book, *Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter*. See Page 42.

EDITORIAL

KNOCKED DOWN, STEPPED ON AND ABUSED

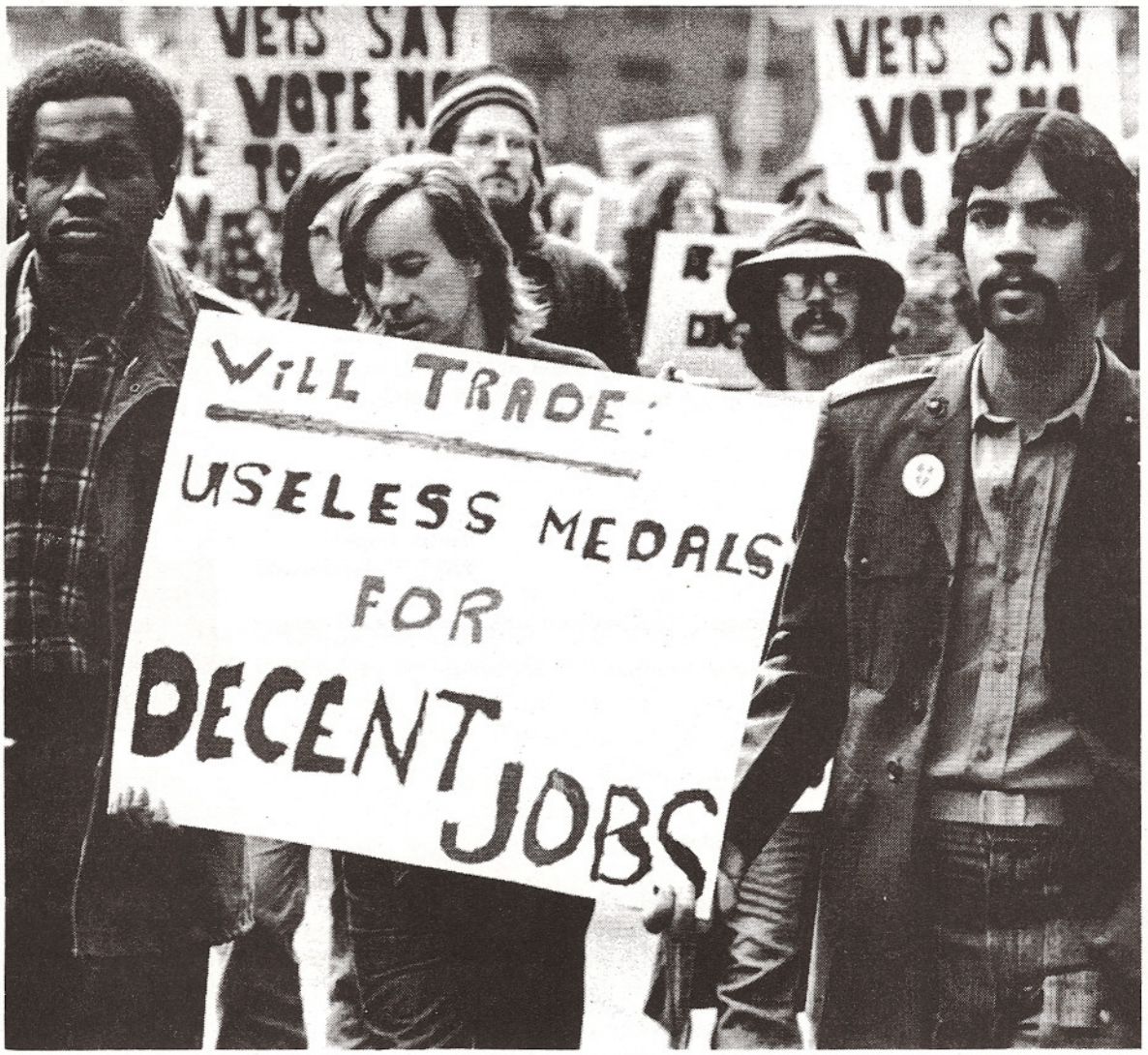
What happens when all of your illusions are gone? If you were poor when you went into the service and "served your country" in Vietnam, you were probably just as poor when you got out. If you joined up to get a skill that would get you a good paying job in civilian life, you came out to find that there were no jobs. And anyway, the job market for machine gunners is very select. In reality, thousands of vets came out of Vietnam, and the only thing that had changed was that they had lost their illusions about "making it" in America.

What happens when all your illusions are gone? Young white brothers who went into the service thinking that "if you're white you're all right, but if you're Black get back" was what was happening, changed their minds. Sharpened bamboo traps, hanging snakes and AK 47's did not discriminate as to race, color or creed. In fact many whites looked more to the unity they saw between "brothers" than to the maniac mentality of the white lifers. It was hard to come back and be enthusiastic about racist America.

What happens when all your illusions are gone? It was the Vietnam vets who woke up the people of this country to what the war was really about. Faced with the determination of the liberation fighters, their overwhelming support from the Vietnamese people and the corruption of the U.S.-supported South Vietnamese gangster government, it was difficult to believe the U.S. had "God on its side." The "gooks" and the "cong" had much human dignity, and the U.S. was sending many of us to die in order to keep a faraway people from freedom and independence. The U.S. was there for the dollar.

So what does happen when all your illusions are gone? Vietnam vets are still making decisions about what to do with their lives. Meanwhile, many are on the street. The army had permitted, even secretly encouraged, the use of heroin to solve the problems of resistance and rebellion in the armed services. Back stateside, the war is gone but the heroin continues. Petty crime and small time hustles have become a way of life for thousands. And every day thousands of vets wake up, fall through half the morning and say to themselves that some decisions have got to be made tomorrow.

They used us " 'til they used us up." A "Vietnam refugee" gets more money



". . . You came out to find that there were no jobs. And anyway, the job market for machine gunners is very select."

for continuing his education and job training than a Vietnam vet. The benefits due veterans are hidden behind stacks of forms and regulations and rows of bureaucrats. The laws providing for veteran assistance were passed by demagogic politicians who failed to provide for the money to actually get to the veteran.

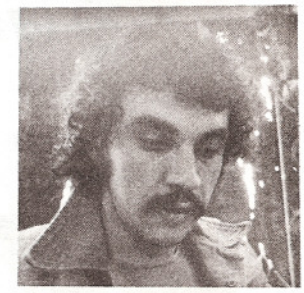
Our communities have a responsibility to fight for a decent life for veterans. We have to fight the government for the benefits they rightfully deserve. But most of all, the community must seek out the veterans to work for community survival and power. They are steeled and experienced and have no illusions. This is the kind of person who can righteously lead our communities to determine our own destinies.□

ON THE STREET

"DO YOU THINK VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE BEEN TREATED FAIRLY?"

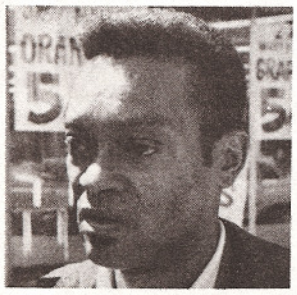
Deborah Holland
4448 N. Dover

"They're having a hard time adjusting even if they've been back three or four years. There isn't any programs. Most of them I know have had a hard time getting a job; the GI Bill, going back to school and stuff — it's f---up."



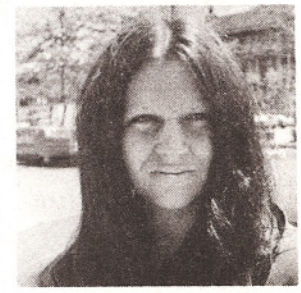
Victor Lopez
1318 W. Sunnyside

"I have a lot of friends who went to Vietnam. They have no jobs, no houses. They got nothing, man."



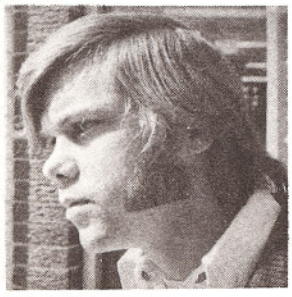
Al Martin
4032 N. Sheridan

"They're getting their checks late, and they're not being treated right in the job market. Most employers won't hire them because they think most Vietnam vets are drug-related. I don't think they're getting a very good deal."



Norine Sorensen
1612 W. Wilson

"No; they don't want to pay for their extensive damage and things like that. I just don't think it's fair."



Kenneth Nichols
2425 W. Jackson

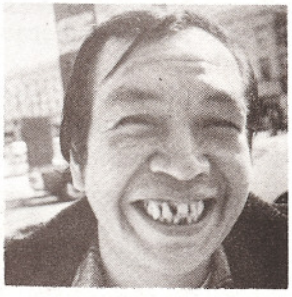
"They're not giving those GI Bills anymore, and it's not really any help in getting a job or anything. I haven't gotten anything. I applied but they cut out the GI Bills on me — on everybody. I just get S.S. from my dad; that's it. I've been out since last year in December."

Charlie Mack
W. Sunnyside

"People have been screwed over; the same cats are out of work; the majority of them except for the yokels they gave the SWAT jobs to. The rest of them are still on the skids."

Rose McMillion
4032 N. Sheridan

"I just don't think they're treated right. It took my brother awhile but all he's doing is working in a coal mine."

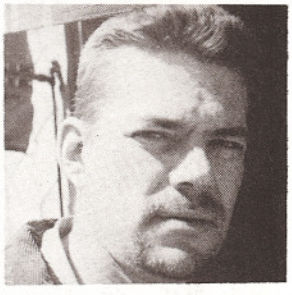


Joe Polk
927 W. Eastwood

"I'm an Indian, and my forefathers had the white man's ways pushed down their throat. So why the heck should I go and push the white man's ways down other people's throats?"

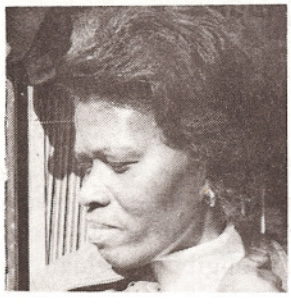
Jacqueline Thomas
4640 N. Dover

"I don't think they're doing them right."



Lou Trainor

"Social conflicts: people think they're better than you are; can't get a job; nobody wants to hire you. These are the attitudes when you first get back from the Nam. The GI Bill is a touchy subject with me. I went down and filled out forms in quadruple, and they said they'd notify me in 30 days. After 30 days you don't get any notification: you go back and fill out your 1042 form, and then they say 'We'll notify you.' Cram it . . ."



Ruby Harvey
3236 S. Prairie

"I think no – they can't get no jobs: they give them the run-around; they promise them jobs. They went over and died for a lot of things they didn't know nothing about."

WELFARE RIGHTS

"I'm Sorry, The Files Say You're Dead"

For the past four months Ms. Bessie Roberts has had her checks cut and lost. She's been bounced around between government agencies, and last month she was declared "deceased" by the Social Security Administration.

In January, Ms. Robert's veteran benefits from her late husband's service were cut from $110 a month to $70 a month. At the same time she received notice from the Social Security Administration (SSA) that her supplementary disability check (SSI) would be cut from $157.70 a month to $87.70 a month because she was receiving VA benefits.

Since her food stamp purchase price was not also lowered, Ms. Roberts went to the public aid office to inquire why. Once at the office her caseworker called the SSA to verify the amount of her new check. When he asked for the amount, the caseworker was told, "Nothing; the woman is dead." Understandably confused and angry, Ms. Roberts went to the SSA only to be told, "Go home, and we will mail you some forms to fill out."

Bessie Roberts — very much alive.

For three months Ms. Roberts, who is disabled has not received her SSI check. The Social Security Administration says that she is not entitled to any of her husband's social security benefits and that their policy is "to deduct every penny received from any other source of income off the SSI check."

Compounding the matter is the fact that if Ms. Roberts were in a nursing home the benefits paid by the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration would total $287 a month. "I can't understand why they would pay more to see me locked up in a nursing home rather than on my own two feet," said Ms. Roberts.

When asked to comment on the reason why and if this sort of arrangement favored private business over the interests of the recipient and the public, the SSA refused comment, saying "Write your congressman."

Assuming her checks are reinstated, the total amount will place Ms. Roberts just under the official U.S. government poverty line for a single person. Critics of the system say this is "calculated" and is the pattern of all types of benefits. They further have charged that the entire system "is geared to keep people poor and to maximize the profits of private industry."

Commenting on her situation, Ms. Roberts said, "I don't see how they expect me to live. I can't pay my rent, and there's no money to buy food. They can come and look in my refrigerator if they want."□

Food Stamps Cost Too Much

The Chicago Housing Tenants Organization (CHTO) has announced plans for a public hearing to be held on May 22 on the new federal guidelines for food stamp eligibility which they

charge particularly affect senior citizens and tenants in public housing. According to CHTO many seniors have been sending their food stamp cards back to the state because they cannot pay for them.

Seniors who live on fixed incomes cannot afford the inflationary costs of rising food prices. The food stamp allocations fail to take fluctuating utility rates and necessary phone bills into account resulting in costs too high for many to afford. Similarly, they point out that the food stamp determination process does not take into account the excess utilities and repair bills charged by CHA which significantly affect a tenant's spendable income on a month-by-month basis.

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins has committed herself to attend the hearing. Organizers see the hearing as an opportunity for food stamp recipients to voice their grievances as well as become further acquainted with the food stamp bill recently passed by the Senate which cuts $700 million out of the current food stamp budget.

Meanwhile, the Illinois Department of Public Aid has initiated, in many districts in Chicago, a mandatory currency exchange-check mailing policy, with plans to extend the policy to all districts in the near future. This policy makes it mandatory for recipients of ADC to have their check sent to a currency exchange where only they can pick it up. Critics have noted that before the state implements any new policy affecting public aid, it is required to hold a public hearing. No such public hearing was held before this policy was implemented.

WELFARE
CHECK
SERVICE
In cooperation with the State of Illinois... to insure safe delivery... we can receive your Welfare check directly from the State. Bring the form you get with your Welfare check to us and we'll help you fill it out.
We're here to help you!
GAS
ELECTRIC

When recipients leave to walk home with their full month's money, they are completely vulnerable to any Tom, Dick or Harry.

They say that this could be a great inconvenience to sick or disabled recipients who may not be able to get to the currency exchange. In addition, the safeness of the program has been questioned. On days the checks arrive large numbers of people are forced to wait in long lines before they even know for sure that their checks have arrived. Then, when they leave to walk home with their full month's money in their pocket they are completely vulnerable to any Tom, Dick or Harry who has made it his business to know check cashing day, it has been charged.

Concern for why this policy was implemented without a public hearing has raised cries of foul play. It has been suggested that the only people to benefit from such a program would be the currency exchanges which receive a percentage of each check they cash. □

TENANTS' RIGHTS

"The Bulldozers Are Coming"

A series of illegal evictions resulting from the co-operation of the city and large slumlords is being called "one more concerted attempt by the city to disrupt our community and move poor people out of Chicago."

The controversy concerns the west side of the 4500 block of Racine and its recent purchase by the city college system. The most recent evictions took place at 4518 N. Racine, a building owned by William Strickland.

According to tenants of the building as well as members of the newly formed Uptown Tenants Survival Union, Strickland gave people only four

Strickland's last remaining building on Racine St. is demolished: "The whole process was illegal from beginning to end."

days to move out before the building was to be demolished and in some cases physically removed both the tenants and their belongings himself. This, the Union says, is illegal and the "result of the historic co-operation between the city and William Strickland."

Having moved to Chicago from West Virginia seven years ago, Ms. Cynthia Plummer commented on the evictions from her building, "I knew I had legal rights, but if I had tried to fight for them by myself then my kids would have been in danger." Ms. Plummer and seven of her nine children had previously lived at 4532 N. Racine, a building also owned by Strickland. According to the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, Strickland, a notorious slumlord, had purchased a number of buildings in the area with the plan to "milk" them and then sell the land to the city to be used for the new Northeast Community College being built on Wilson and Racine.

Though housing for large low-income families in the area is scarce, Ms. Plummer decided not to stay in the "dilapidated" building moving in November, 1975 to Strickland's building at 4518 N. Racine when lack of maintenance combined with suspicious fires made the first building completely unlivable.

Ms. Plummer states that she was guaranteed that she could live there a long time and that she wouldn't be forced to go through the costly and disruptive moving process again.

Union members and tenants further say that repeated failure on Strickland's part to do anything to improve the building finally forced the city to take action against it. "The ceilings were falling in, electrical wiring was exposed, the plumbing wasn't working, the whole building was falling apart."

Strickland did go to court, but instead of being ordered to repair the building, he asked for and received a demolition permit. Tenants say he notified them that in four days his salvage company would begin the demolition and that they would have to move by then. Knowing Strickland the tenants packed their belongings and left. "I know Bill Strickland would have either torn it down or started it on fire had I stayed there," said Ms. Plummer.

Even in an extreme situation such as this, a UTSU spokesperson says evictions can be fought. "The whole process was illegal from beginning to end; nobody can be evicted without a court order and being given a reasonable amount of time in which to move. It would have been possible to stay or to have brought action through the courts to stop the eviction. And, if the tenants had acted early enough and we had been ready for Strickland, we could have gotten a

tenant receivership before he got the court to give him a demolition order. (Tenant receivership is when the city of Chicago through its housing court grants that the responsibility for management of a building is taken from an owner who refuses to make repairs and given to the tenants themselves. [See *KEEP STRONG*, No. 9; April, 1976.])

Ms. Cynthia Plummer: "I knew I had legal rights, but if I had tried to fight for them by myself then my kids would have been in danger."

Explaining the rapid growth of community determination to stop this kind of activity the Union spokesperson said, "People are realizing that situations such as the Strickland buildings are part and parcel of a city plan, and to rely on the city for help is to turn to the very people who are destroying our community. The only way to combat this is to be organized building to building and block to block."□

LEGAL RIGHTS

The Adoption Racket

Goldie Shoemaker is a mother of eight children two of whom have been taken away and placed in juvenile institutions by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), an agency which has been described by its own caseworkers as "an all too powerful apparatus with an all too narrow perspective."

DCFS was established in the mid-1960's through the Juvenile Court Act for the purpose of "protecting the lives and development of children in the state of Illinois." However, caseworkers say that the state agency rapidly became obsessed with placement of children and less so with their development. "DCFS does the exact opposite of what it wants to do," said one caseworker who wished to remain anonymous.

Legally the agency can try to remove any child from any home in the state of Illinois. In the case of Ms. Shoemaker the agency decided that her home "was unfit" when two of her sons were taken to Audy Home for minor violations of the strict juvenile code. "They said we didn't have the right kind of furniture and not enough food," said Ms. Shoemaker. "This upset me because my children have always had plenty to eat. The person who said this has never been in my house."

Ms. Goldie Shoemaker: "My children have always had plenty to eat. The person who said this has never been in my house."

Both progressive caseworkers inside the agency and opponents of DCFS state that it is very easy to become confused during the process. They say that parents should never sign anything and upon going to court should obtain a lawyer other than a public defender. Going to court is especially important because failure by parents to come to court can result in a default judgement causing the natural parents to lose custody of the child. These same people say that caseworkers are not to be trusted and that 99 per cent of the time people are not even informed of their right to appeal. If custody is lost the parents should fight for the right to see their child.

Because the agency is staffed mostly by white middle-class women with no families of their own, charges have been raised concerning "prejudicial judgement" towards families that are poor and have many children. Critics note that the majority of children are almost always taken from the poor communities and placed in foster homes in the suburbs and other upper and middle-income communities. Sources report that DCFS pays a whopping $4 million a year to keep children in institutions and spends the majority of its time keeping children in the foster homes where they have been placed. According to these sources this is a result of foster parents going through one child after another until they find one they want to adopt.

Adoptions are rapidly becoming a big business with foster parents paying up to $3,500 through a legal agency and as high as $25,000 through the so-called "black market."

DCFS refuses to help the natural parents who are in financially difficulty because this violates a policy of not "getting involved politically." They claim that to help natural parents provide for their children would be "too much like public aid and not look good." But natural parents see it in a different light: "I think it's really bad to have a family separated. Sometimes it makes the child worse," said Ms. Shoemaker. "Last time Ricky was home he didn't want to go back saying 'I miss you, mommy, and my little brother.' How do you think I feel?"

The recently formed Natural Parents Task Force opposes these practices. Consisting of concerned caseworkers and natural parents, the organization was formed to fight the departmental bureaucracy and ensure the rights of natural parents. The group meets on a monthly basis and can be contacted through Ms. Jennifer Schroeder at the DCFS office at 4320 W. Montrose, 282-9470.□

ON THE JOB

Tootsie Toy: Hard Work And No Protection

Throughout Chicago there are many factories employing a small number of people for a small amount of pay and under conditions which are detrimental to the health and well-being of the workers.

One such factory is the Tootsie Toy Company, located at 600 N. Pulaski. Tootsie manufactures everything from collar buttons to toy trucks, toy guns and dolls. Tootsie is owned by the Strombecker Corporation, a multi-million dollar operation begun in 1893 by Samuel Dowst. Starting with the Model T Ford in 1906, Strombecker continued to expand until it became the "proud parents" of a new line of S.W.A.T. toys complete with armoured cars, special weapons trucks, search lights and four S.W.A.T. "heroes."

The corporation has always been a family-

The Tootsie Toy Company, 600 N. Pulaski.

owned affair, presently operated by the Shure family. The practice of maintaining a tightly controlled and privately-owned industry is usually done to prevent public scrutiny and to allow corporations the maximum leeway in their practices towards employees and customers. The working conditions at Tootsie Toy Co. reflect this policy.

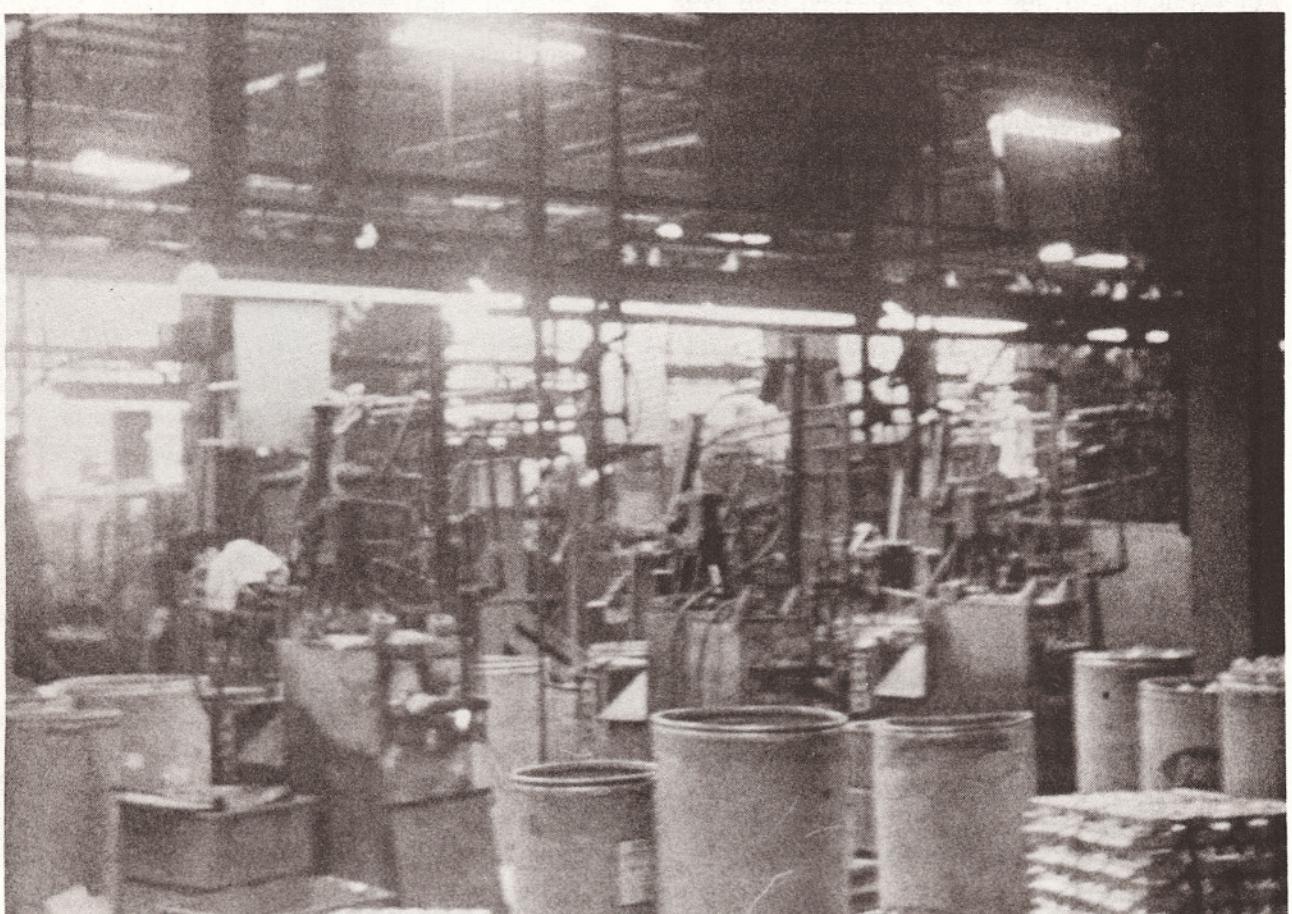
Two shifts totalling about 140 people produce Tootsie toys. The factory is over 75% women, mostly Black and Latino. Pay is low, averaging about $2.60 an hour. Raises are very rare and usually just enough to cover the cost of union dues. "Some people have worked here 25 years and only get $4 to $4.50 an hour," said one worker.

Because the production of toys involves the use of plastic and the metal zinc, irritating fumes and dust particles are constantly in the air, resulting in frequent skin infections. "They don't give us anything to cover our arms or other parts of our bodies that are exposed to the dust." During the summer the heat becomes unbearable with many workers getting sick when the ovens are on high.

There is no such thing as sick days at Tootsie Toy or Christmas bonuses or any other fringe benefits except holiday pay. Security is extremely tight. "They're always watching us, whatever we do." Because some workers work for a piece rate (while others work straight time), it is common for employees working for the piece rate to speed up, increasing the work load for everybody.

The union is the General Service Employees Union, local 73, an AFL-CIO affiliate. Exactly what its purpose is is not clear. Most employees can't remember the name, and rarely does the union stand by its members. "The union won't even help us with unfair firings," charged one worker who was recently fired from her job. "I was fixing to come to work, and this man comes to the door and hands me a telegram telling me I'm fired for excessive absences. I can't fight it because the union won't help."

Tootsie Toy Co. can continue these types of practices because unemployment is so high in Chicago, averaging about 35% in poor communities. One worker when asked why he was staying in such bad conditions replied, "Look, the only good thing about this place is the regular pay check; work, you know. But the pay ain't s--t."□



"They don't give us anything to cover our arms or other parts of our bodies that are exposed to the dust."

POLICE WATCH

Beat Reps In Charge Of Justice, Too?

A recent meeting of the 23rd district beat representative program has come under severe criticism for "laying the groundwork to completely remove any possibility of citizen control of the police department." The poorly publicized meeting held Wednesday, April 14 at Gill Park Field House, allegedly called to re-organize the program in the new 23rd district, projected the police department as the sole vehicle open to citizens to receive justice even in cases of charges against the police department itself.

Chaired by Sgt. Bullerman, public relations man for the 23rd district and Ms. Arlene Norton, district beat representative co-ordinator, and well-attended by precinct captains and city employees, the program urged people to call their beat representatives for anything "suspicious" going on in the neighborhood as well as any complaints against the police department. Both Bullerman and Ms. Norton, specifically told people to avoid the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) and instead contact the beat representative or local police district with any complaints about police activity.

The OPS, established in September, 1974 by Superintendent James Rochford, was created to replace the Internal Affairs Division of the police department. It is responsible for the investigation and disposition of any complaints arising from "excessive force" on the part of police officers. Although telling people to by-pass OPS violates the standard operating procedure of the police department, Bullerman stubbornly refused to acknowledge the OPS calling it "a do-nothing bureaucracy" and telling people that the police have a "monopoly" and "there is nowhere else to turn to."

While critics of the program say the OPS deserves to be criticized for dragging its feet, they maintain that to negate the OPS would establish a dangerous precedent and lead to complete police control over the public. "To grant the police department the right to investigate itself would be suicidal," commented one community leader present at the meeting.

Critics also argue that the stated purpose of the beat representative program, to establish closer links with the community, has never been implemented and that the beat representatives are nothing more "than police informers working out of their homes."

Sgt. Bullerman, public relations for 23rd district (left) and Ms. Arlene Norton, district beat rep co-ordinator (right); Critics charge that beat reps are nothing more "than police informers working out of their homes."

From its inception over three years ago the program has been under constant attack by progressive individuals, community organizations and independent aldermen, one of whom, Dick Simpson, has said, "There is a definite danger that the program might be used for political purposes."

The opening of a storefront in the Irving Park and Sheridan area to be staffed by four "civilians" with salaries totalling over $37,500 a year was announced.□

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

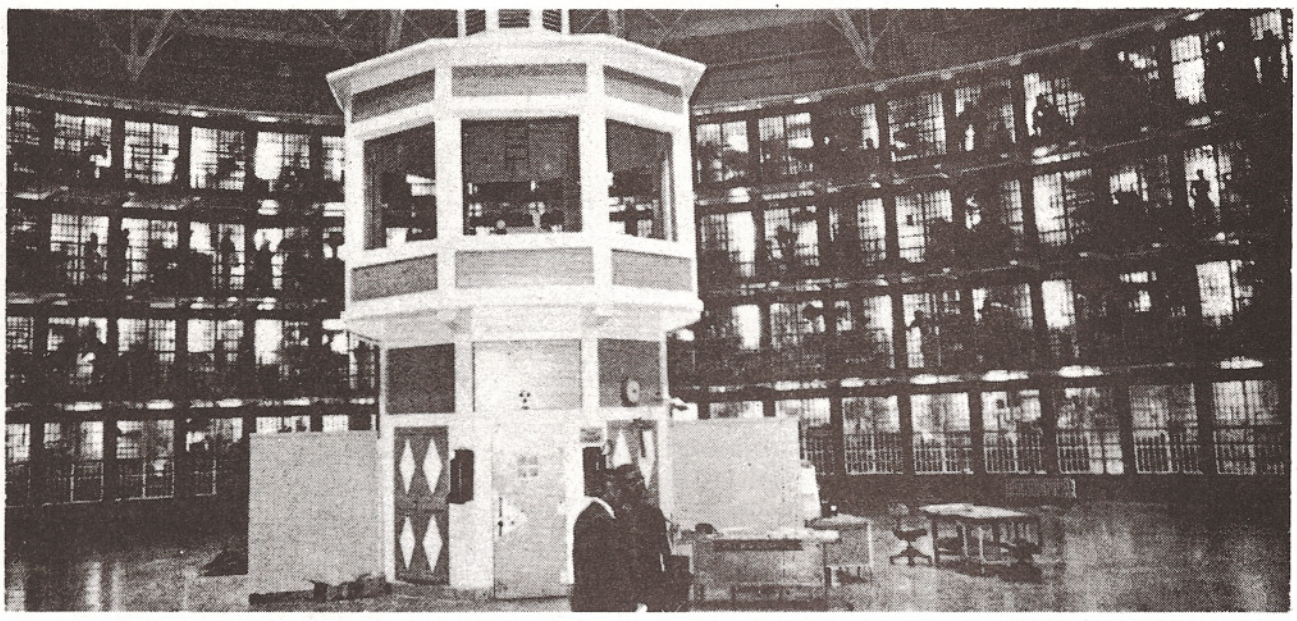
Inmates Arbitrarily Transferred Across State

In a recent move, Illinois state prison officials shifted nearly 1,000 inmates from prison to prison across the state. Given no prior notice, all inmates in "protective custody" at Stateville, Vandalia and Pontiac were transferred to Joliet while the entire general population at Joliet was sent primarily to Stateville. Whereas it is dubious that the shift may bring a less repressive situation to those inmates who have requested protective custody, criticisms have been raised by many affected by the move that the action was arbitrary and disorienting, uprooting inmates and causing unnecessary hardship for many, and thereby violating wholesale their basic human rights.

State officials claim that the number of inmates requesting protective custody has risen sharply and that new arrangements were necessary to accommodate all the requests. Protective custody is the practice of "safe keeping" in which inmates are locked up 24 hours a day except for weekly showers and yard exercise. Its stated purpose is to protect young and "vulnerable" inmates from attack by the so-called "hardened" element in the prison system.

Inmates who were previously enrolled in education programs at one institution and who have now been transferred will find it difficult and often impossible to enroll in comparable programs in the new institution. This promises to be a particular problem for those transferred from Joliet to Stateville where the programs are full with already existing waiting lists. Inmates who have worked hard for the opportunity to make special arrangements for art and music showings have had their shows cancelled and have to start all over in a new institution with a new set of circumstances to make new arrangements.

Whereas Joliet was 85% Black and Latino before the transfer, it is now 50% white and 50% people of color. Stateville, on the other hand, has become almost entirely Black and Latino. The majority of inmates transferred to Stateville will



Stateville: The recent move was arbitrary and disorienting, uprooting inmates and causing unnecessary hardship for many, and thereby violating wholesale their basic human rights.

be housed in B house which is noted for its ear-deafening noise and unliveable conditions. B house is the largest cell block of its kind in the world, housing over 500 inmates. Because there is no uniform prison code covering the institutions, inmates transferred to Stateville had their clothing confiscated as it was considered "irregular clothing," and what prison officials determined to be contraband was destroyed upon entering the prison, even though the item in question was acceptable at the institution they were previously assigned to.

Prison observers say that while Joliet has "more to offer" in the way of recreation and schooling, inmates are living under the threat of transfer and told that any violation of the 22 general rules governing conduct will result in their being shifted to Menard or Stateville. They also expect conditions at Menard and Stateville to rapidly become more oppressive under the guise of "dealing with gang activity."

Commenting on a recent trip to Joliet, one observer stated, "The entire transfer accomplished nothing in terms of improving general prison conditions in the state. It's ridiculous to think that this will solve any problems. The problems lie in the conditions and nature of the programs available at the prisons not in the population make-up."□

HEALTH NEWS

Health Center Brought To The Community Bargaining Table

After several months of an intensive campaign to force the Illinois Family Health Plan to become accountable to the Uptown community and to stop fraudulent and inhuman practices, leading community organizations granted a request by officials of the health plan to meet. Attending the meeting were Mr. Harold Liederman and Mr. Bud Learman of the Illinois Family Health Plan and representatives of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, the 46th Ward Community Service Center, The Welfare Defense Organization, The Chicago Area Black Lung Association and the United Veterans Organization.

Leading up to the community campaign against the health center had been numerous complaints that, contrary to promises made when signing on the program; 1) no one answers the round-the-clock emergency number; 2) patients have had difficulty getting emergency prescriptions filled; 3) choice of hospital care is limited to Thorek (formerly American) Hospital and 4) there is virtually no transportation, even in emergencies. The main problem, reportedly, was that public aid recipients had to sign on the program for a period of six months, giving up their green card for a "gold card." In the face of inadequate medical services through the health plan, they then had no medical alternative because they no longer had their green cards. The program was called "Gold Card Slavery" by the community.

The health plan, known as a health maintenance organization, depends on recruiting massive numbers of people to its program to maintain itself economically. As the community campaign continued, hundreds disenrolled with the assistance of community organizations, and few joined. Functioning on heavy loans, the health plan officials were forced to negotiate.

At the meeting, Illinois Family Health Plan representatives reported that many of the problems leading to former complaints had been rectified but the community organizations unanimously stated that some form of "community control" had to be established to insure that

Illinois Family Health Plan Center on Broadway; the demand is for community control.

The beginning of the community campaign during which hundreds disenrolled from the HMO program with the assistance of community organizations, and few joined.

future abuses would not occur. Further, the community would not be content to sit on an "advisory board" with no decision-making power. Health plan officials have now gone back to develop a proposal for community accountability to be submitted to the group.

ISC leading member Jack Hart commented that the issue at stake is even broader than the several clinics operating through the Illinois Family Health Plan. "We are now involved in a whole new era of health care, where private corporations will contract with public aid, and later with the national health insurance, to provide services at cheaper costs. These private corporations must be made to be responsible to the community they serve not just to the bureaucrats in Springfield and Washington who are trying to save money at the expense of adequate health care."□

EDUCATION

Students & Faculty Protest Cuts

A series of proposed cutbacks and tuition hikes in state education have set off rallies, protests and demonstrations by students, faculty and community residents across the city.

At an April 25 rally, Ms. Joan Jeter Slay, Director of St. Mary's Center for Learning (the only high school completion program in Chicago which is targetted for closing because of the cuts.) blasted the cutbacks saying, "We are those statistics the state is talking about. Don't talk to me about adult education being a second chance; we never had the first chance."

The cutbacks and tuition raises will affect the college system as well as alternative schools across the city. Under pending legislation, funds for alternative schools' adult education, GED, English as a Second Language (ESL), and special programs would be slashed anywhere from 61% to 100%. The results would be close to total disaster for some 500 schools serving over 37,000 students, with schools losing funds for teachers, classrooms and other necessary resources.

Originally trying to cut the funding from $17.61 to $6.81 per student, the State House of Representatives recently "raised" the level to $13.75. The State Senate supports lowering the present rate to $14.25. While saying that the present Senate bill if passed could provide enough funds for the survival of the programs, critics charge that it would probably still mean a

cut in the number of classes available. "Either way they do it, it's going to mean some cutbacks," said an organizer for the Coalition for Community Education, a group formed to fight the cutbacks.

Holding a well-organized and well-attended rally on April 25, the Coalition stressed "going to Springfield and letting the legislators know that the cutbacks will not be tolerated." The participants enthusiastically responded to the call, at times breaking into spontaneous chants of support. Rally organizers say they were pleased with the turnout and expect a large number of people in Springfield.

In addition, every college in the Chicago area — state, city and private — will be drastically affected by scholarship cuts and tuition hikes. As it stands, tuition will be raised 175% next fall, an increase that critics say will effectively prohibit poor and minority students from continuing their education.

While City College Chancellor Oscar Shabat told students that scholarships would cover the increased costs, the Illinois State Scholarship Commission (ISSC) has announced a 15%-18% cut in the number of scholarships it will grant.

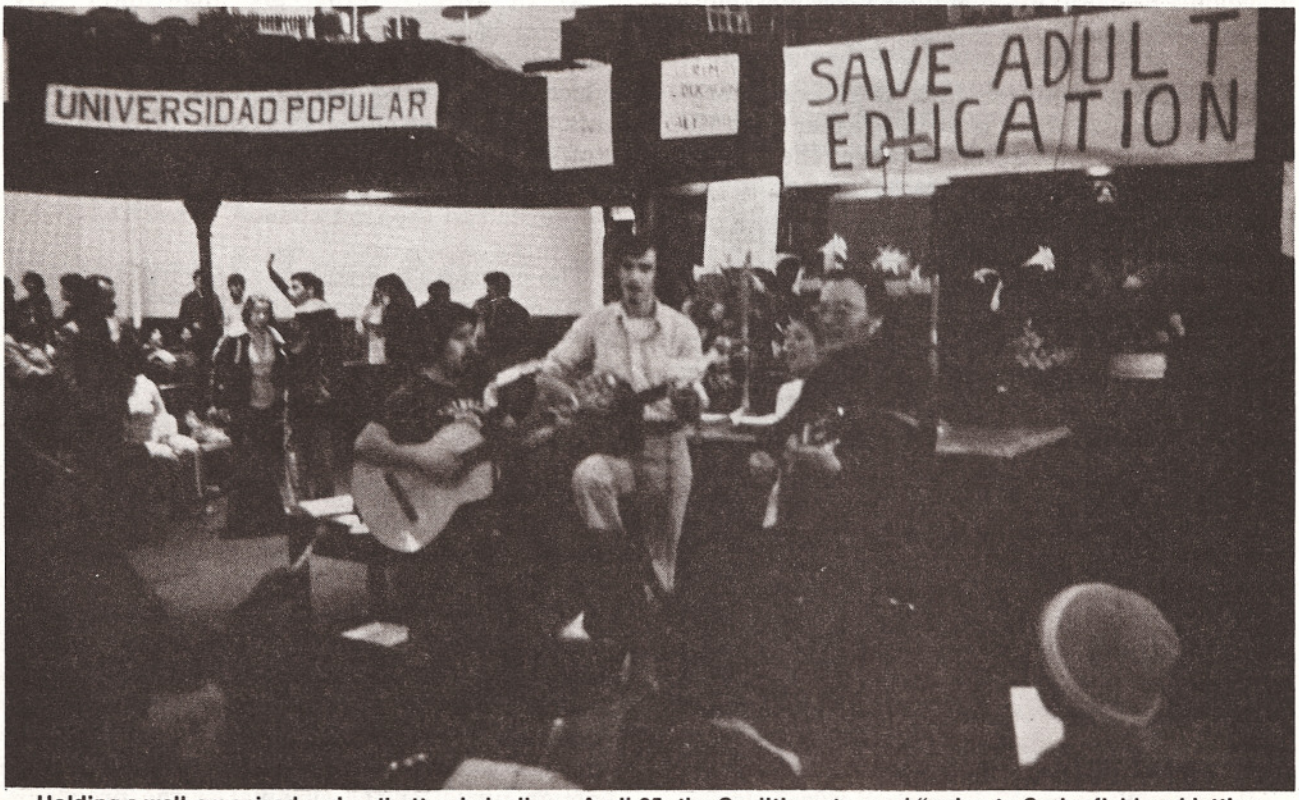
Opponents of the cutbacks say this is the result of the ISSC promising many more applications than it can accept; the poor economic situation and high unemployment; and Governor Walker cutting the state agency's budget by 6% a few months ago. This cut, they say, reflects "the mixed-up priorities of the state."

Students from around the city are planning a massive demonstration to be held at the Civic Center on May 6 to protest the cutbacks.□

FIGHTING CITY HALL

More Of The "City's War On Poor People"

Amidst charges of "secrecy and collusion" the City Council has recently cleared the way for Mayor Daley's ex-son-in-law, William Thompson, to build his $50 million shopping center and apartment complex at Broadway and Montrose.



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The council unanimously approved a resolution to sell to Thompson for $208,500 a block long stretch of W. Pensacola St. between N. Broadway and N. Hazel. The sale enables the Thompson firm to control an unbroken piece of land totaling 4.7 acres.

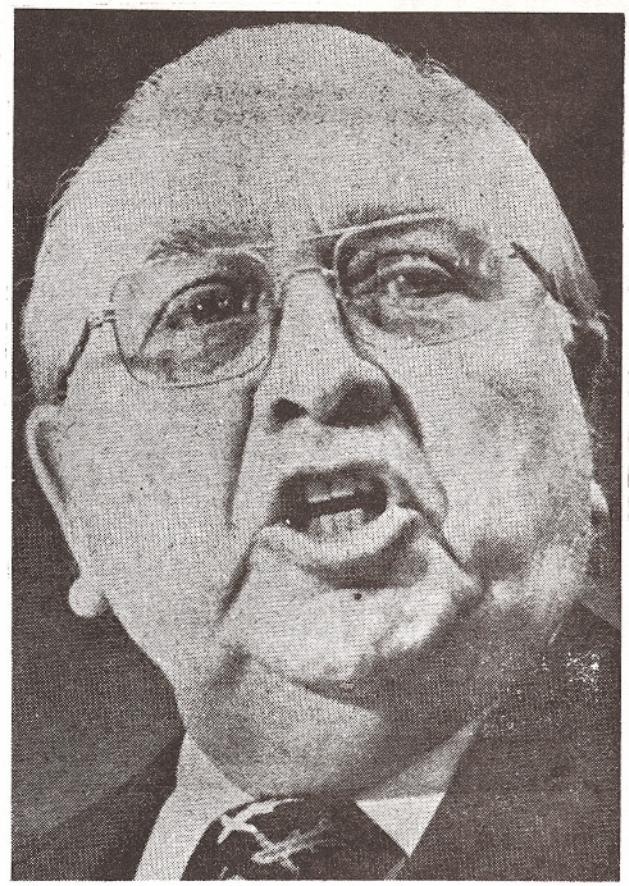
Thompson, who is currently being sued by nine residents who were "relocated" by the land speculator's project, is the head of Pensacola Associates, a firm representing wealthy downtown investors. The precedent-setting suit which is being co-ordinated by the 46th Ward Community Service Center charges Thompson, his backers (which include William Bartholomay, past chairman of the Atlanta Braves baseball team), Mayor Daley and the City Council with violating government policy to develop low and moderate cost housing. The suit states that the development which is taking place in a Model Cities area violates the Constitution by discriminating against Black and Latino families who were forced to move from the racially-mixed area.

Community organizations say that Thompson's development represents "nothing more than a continuation of the city's war on poor people." Pointing to the once populous area known as the Broadway Triangle (Clarendon, Broadway, Irving Park and Montrose), they say that no fewer than three large "development projects" have been begun in the area, and there is almost no large low-income housing left.□

Red Squad Files Destroyed By Police

Recent developments in the federal suit, filed in 1974, by the Alliance to End Repression to stop illegal police spying and infiltration of meetings held by private groups and now being heard before Judge Kirkland, have revealed that the Chicago Police Department had destroyed 210 different files which would have revealed the identities of informers and undercover agents who worked for the police department during the early 70's.

Last March, Judge Kirkland had ordered that the police department turn over all deleted sections of the "Red Squad" documents which the plaintiffs in the suit had already received which would have included the names of the informers. After some initial stalling the police conveniently revealed that they could not comply with the judge's order because the files had inadvertently been destroyed.



Richard J. Daley, on the witness stand.

Another significant development in the suit was a recent ruling by the judge to "certify the class." This means that the 33 named plaintiffs represent all individuals and organizations who have reason to believe they were the victims of political spying and "neutralization," and that therefore their files could be requested by the Alliance attorneys.

In other developments the Alliance lawyers won the "right" to question Mayor Daley about his involvement in illegal police spying. In spite of repeated attempts by city attorneys to get the court to rescind (take back) its order making Daley's appearance mandatory, the questioning finally took place, after a two month delay, on May 1 at the LaSalle Hotel. As a result of a "gentlemen's agreement" between attorneys for the Alliance and attorneys for Daley and the city, neither the questions nor the Mayor's answers have been revealed to the public as *KEEP STRONG* goes to press.□

HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

Daley Has Last Laugh

For several years Mayor Richard J. Daley has been fighting the "liberals" in court around the construction of public housing and leased housing in all-white neighborhoods. In "the Gatreaux decision" Judge Austin had ruled that no more public housing could be built in the inner city until public housing was first built in all-white and suburban Cook County areas. The decision resulted in the stoppage of almost all expansion of Chicago's terribly inadequate public housing supply.

All through the fight, involved community leaders said that Daley really had no quarrel with the decision because it fit his stated purpose of eliminating the Black, Latino and poor communities from the inner city while providing only minimal replacement housing in small, politically powerless pockets throughout the metropolitan area. Last month, when the supreme court upheld the Austin decision by an 8 to 0 majority, Daley surprised the liberals by declaring victory. "It just upholds my position that housing should be handled on a metropolitan basis," he said, thinly disguising his mass "people removal" plan.

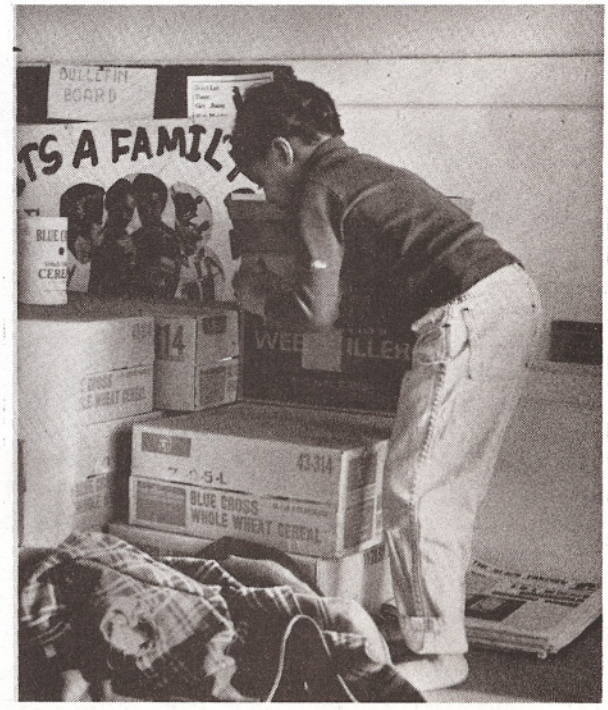
The fact remains that some 20,000 people are on the waiting list for public housing in Chicago already, and community organizations throughout the city feel the decision to force the construction of public housing in the suburbs will now continue to be the excuse used not to build decent, low-income housing in the inner city areas where it is so badly needed.□

Tenants Group Organizes With Food Co-op

The Chicago Housing Tenants Organization with chapters throughout public housing has for several years been fighting for the interests of tenants in public housing and growing steadily throughout Chicago's housing projects. One of CHTO's latest organizing efforts has been the Omega Food Co-op. Organized in October of 1975, Omega Food Co-op went through both ups and downs, depending on agencies for technical expertise. Then the decision was made to "branch out and seek ways of becoming an independent food co-op." Applying the principle that we learn by doing, Omega fought the bureaucracy to obtain a sales tax number and food stamp certification so that the co-op can now accept food stamps. Marketing skills have been thoroughly mastered, materials and supplies gathered and a structure for transportation and volunteer work developed.

Several successful sales included fruits, vegetables, cheeses, meats and eggs at big savings. A distribution center is being set up presently at the Flannery Senior Citizens Home, 1507 N. Clybourn, where the first celebration sale is to be held on May 4. A second celebration sale will be held at the Tranquility Community Center on that day.

Membership dues are $2 a month with a bonus membership of $10 for six months. Long range goals include establishing the food co-op throughout all the CHTO chapters and setting up nutrition classes. For more information contact: Regina Glover, Co-ordinator, Omega Food Co-op at 337-0218.□



One of CHTO's latest organizing efforts has been the Omega Food Co-op.

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

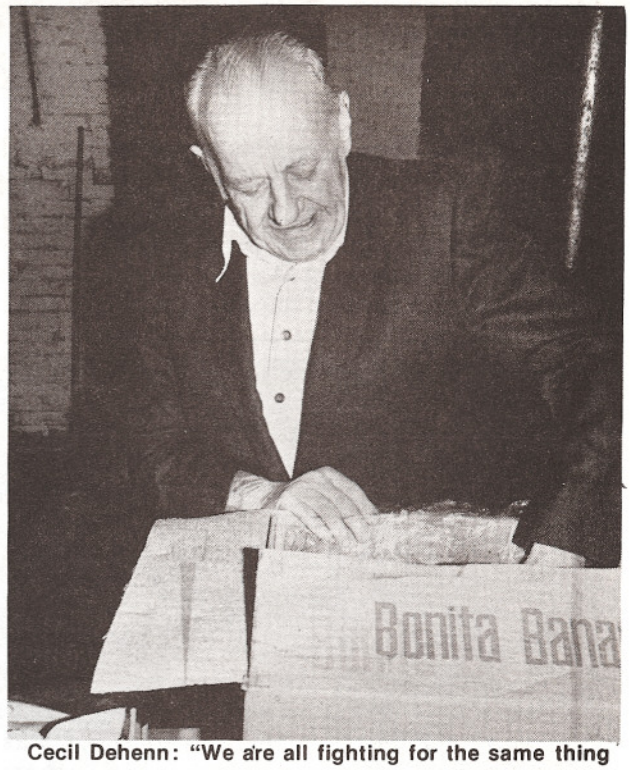
Cecil Dehenn

The following is a special feature which KEEP STRONG *will publish regularly to honor those senior citizens who are actively working in the interest of the people of our community. This month* KEEP STRONG *honors Mr. Cecil Dehenn for his hard work, untiring dedication and innovative ideas which he has contributed to the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and the People's Food Co-op.*

Mr. Dehenn refers to himself as one of the pioneers of Chicago. He was born in 1903 and grew up around 1200 S. Prairie on Chicago's southside. Chicago at that time was a much different city, not as large and populous. His parents died when he was quite young; his grandfather who was one of the original owners of a franchise of Wells Fargo, a freight transportation company, took him in when he was nine years old. Being an exceptionally large boy, he was put to work as a stable boy, tending to the horses of the stage coaches and wagon trains passing through on their way west. Mr. Dehenn says "as a child, one might say I grew up in the back of a barn. I was doing the work of a man at the age of nine for 50 cents a day."

In the early 1920's Joyce Brothers bought the Wells Fargo franchise, and it eventually became Allied Van Lines. About this time the first Mack trucks were produced for road use. Mr. Dehenn was trained by the Mack people as a driver. Because of his age, his size and his ability to handle furniture and freight, he became a road driver. He remained a truck driver for 40 years, with a brief break of 36 months while he was a pilot in the air force during World War II. About ten years ago Mr. Dehenn developed trouble with this legs and was laid off because he could no longer get any insurance for himself as a driver.

Asked to reflect on his life today vs. his life as a truck driver, Mr. Dehenn said, "I have so many friends today that I didn't have before, because I was not stable at any time for more than a day or two when I was working on the road. The friends that I have acquired since being retired are all wonderful, great people to have. I feel very lonely every time I see a truck go by, knowing



Cecil Dehenn: "We are all fighting for the same thing — equality in living, no matter who you are; Brown, Black, Yellow, Red or White."

that the driver will someday be in the same situation as me. Everybody needs someone around who can understand them."

Mr. Dehenn has been very active on housing issues in the Uptown community. He is one of the most active people working on organizing the Uptown Tenants Survival Union. When asked about his involvement in the tenants union and food co-op, he said: "It has become a real problem in this community, that landlords have no real concern for keeping their property up for the tenants. That is why we are joining together now. The politicians in this city are waiting in line like vultures waiting to grab up this property and tear our buildings down and drive us from the places where we love to live. We are trying to aid people in the purchasing of food so that it will be cheaper for them than if they bought the food in the big stores, so that way people have more money to live on. If you become a member you also become a worker. Like the magazine says, 'The strong help themselves while the weak become weaker.' We need your support as well as you need our support. We are all fighting for the same thing — equality in living, no matter who you are; brown, black, yellow, red or white; rich or poor. Although we know we have no rich members, with your help we can and will organize ourselves to the extent that we will be beyond their reach. They will have to come to us."□

VETERANS SPEAK OUT

"I wanted to do something more progressive when I got out."

Eddie Ramirez, Chairman of the Young Lords Organization, was a paratrooper in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969.

Joining up: "1966; I was going out of high school. It was typical of poor people; you know a lot of poor people who go through this . . . I was involved with youth groups during high school years, and conditions in the streets were hostile. And at the time I thought it was a chance to save myself and to do something constructive."

Inside: "What I wanted was something in the medical field, technical field. But according to the army I was ineligible for all that. While I was in the service I saw it was like a mini-society, more or less; there was racism there, and a lot of harassment towards young people.

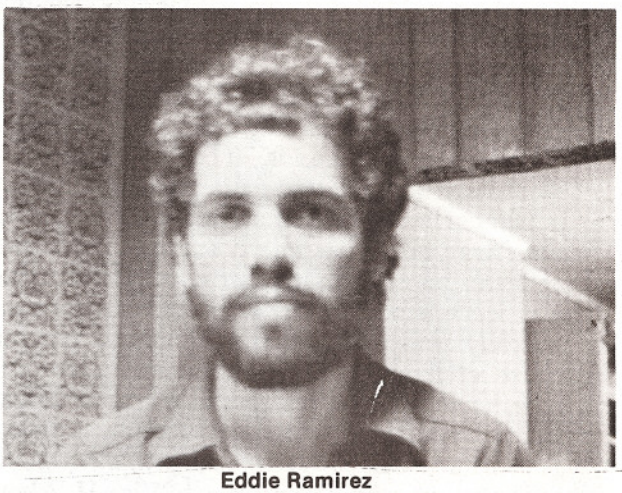
"This service thing changed my whole attitude towards things in my life. But that's typical of a lot of Latino, Black youths, a lot of poor white youths. The alternatives; the media and the press play up the alternatives. Join this. Join that. Help yourself. But once they got you, they forget about promises, even if they're written down. They'll give another excuse; they'll say, 'We need this . . . ' so promises are no good."

The war: "In 1968 the North Vietnamese army offensive was getting pretty strong and now was liberating Vietnam. I was in the unit called up to go reinforce positions over there . . . The North Vietnamese army was kicking ass at the time. All the people we talked to knew it. All the people coming back knew it. There was a strong force over there, and not even napalm and 500 pound bombs could destroy it, because they were educating the people and telling them what was happening.

"There were a lot of internal conflicts in the company. It was to the point where the people in the company were saying, 'If there's any contact, let the company commander make it first.' They weren't scared; they just felt that it was to no avail. A lot of people in the companies saw their own people getting messed up on drugs, getting wiped out for senseless things."

Back outside: "When you leave the army it's like a big vacuum. It has the same impact as being in jail because everything has gone forward, and the way the press works and the army, you don't know nothing that's going on in society. And the army didn't prepare you for nothing.

"I wanted to do some things when I got out; something new, something more progressive than what I'd been through. I'd seen companies of engineers in Vietnam sitting under the sun, while people were starving, with bad medical facilities, no doctors, bad housing, bad sanitary conditions and millions of dollars of equipment just sitting there and all the guys picking up butts off the clean street."



Eddie Ramirez

"They taught me how to use a machine gun . . . There's not many calls for machine gunners on the outside."

Randy Lockhart was in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970 in the Marine Corp. He is currently a

community worker with the veterans program at the 46th Ward Community Service Center.

"After I got out I thought I'd get some kind of job, some kind of training. They taught me how to use a machine gun, and there's not many calls for machine guns on the outside, not many at all. I went to school, the Allied Institute of Technology down on Michigan Avenue, for a year under the G.I. bill.

"They trained me as an auto mechanic. They really didn't train you there to do nothing. They just passed you so that they would get the money and as long as they were getting the money, they didn't care.

"I think that's what's wrong with most of these veteran schools, too. They know they're going to get their money from Uncle Sam so they don't care how they teach you. There should be better schools set up for veterans.

"They should let the veterans handle the money completely themselves, though I think they are trying to put out a new bill where the money would go directly to the schools. The only way I survived was that I got a loan and paid for school, and the checks the government sent me to pay for it, I kept and lived on. I had a kid at the time, just born.

"Most veterans know they can get benefits, but they don't know how to go about it. If they apply for them, and somebody tells them; 'well . . .' gives them the run-around, tells them they might not be eligible, most of them say 'to hell with it.' But they're eligible for it, and they should get it. And their kids and their wives are eligible in some cases.

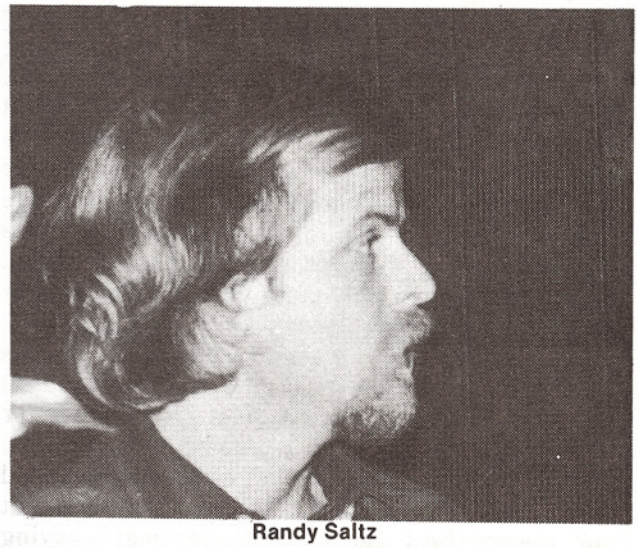
"These people with bad discharges; that's another thing. They should have benefits. They still went to the Nam; they fought like everybody else. Just because they messed up a little bit, that doesn't mean they should kick them out with bad discharges.

"They need more veterans counselors. For example, at the urban progress center at 901 Montrose, they don't even have a counselor. They just got a flunky working as a counselor. He can't really advise because he doesn't know the benefits."

"They offered me an ultimatum: either go to jail or to Vietnam. So I volunteered to go to Vietnam."

Randy Saltz was a paratrooper in Vietnam from November 1967 to July 1970. He is a member of the Intercommunal Survival Committee and co-ordinator of the 46th Ward Community Service Center legal defense program.

Joining the army: "I was expelled from high school in my senior year, and I worked in factories for months. I knew I wasn't going to relate to the factories. So I enlisted in the army which was to me a way to get out of the same day to day experience that I'd been having in my high school years.



Randy Saltz

"After basic-training I was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., to a support batallion which was being prepared to divide itself up and go to Vietnam. Because I was new in the division, they didn't expect me to be going. But I'd gotten into numerous fights with people, especially non-commissioned officers, and they offered me an ultimatum: either go to jail or to Vietnam. So I volunteered to go to Vietnam."

The War: "When I was in Vietnam I was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I arrived in November of 1967 and was there for 2½ years. They came out one day and asked if anybody was a carpenter. I figured they must want someone to be building something, and it beat jumping or being out in the boonies or in the jungle, so I said I was a carpenter. I didn't know one end of the hammer from the other. They taught me a little; to hammer a nail and carry lumber."

Back outside: "The factory I'd been working in before I enlisted was supposed to have a job waiting for me when I got back. In fact, it was a real big point they made when I left. If you were working when you left, if you were drafted or enlisted, no matter, that factory where you worked before had to have a job for you. So I got back and went to this steel mill where I'd been working before in Racine, Wisconsin, and the place was on strike for better wages. They

weren't about to give me strike pay and let me go out on the line. So they said, 'Sorry, kid, you can't do it.'

"We came back from Vietnam in 1970 and American involvement was on a wind-down. People back home decided it was a very unpopular war. We were faced with a different kind of situation than other veterans who had come back home; not the heroes of a war, not the victors of a war or the favorite sons, but people who were either looked on as having some kind of drug habit or were monsters who killed babies or women and children, one; and two, there weren't no jobs. Everybody was writing us; 'Hey, we got this job, and we're making all kinds of money back home.' And we looked and saw what they were doing, and they were making jeeps for the army or making tanks or working in some ammunition plants, or some kind of support to the military complex, and we got back out and the war was winding down. There just weren't any jobs. People were being laid off all over the place.

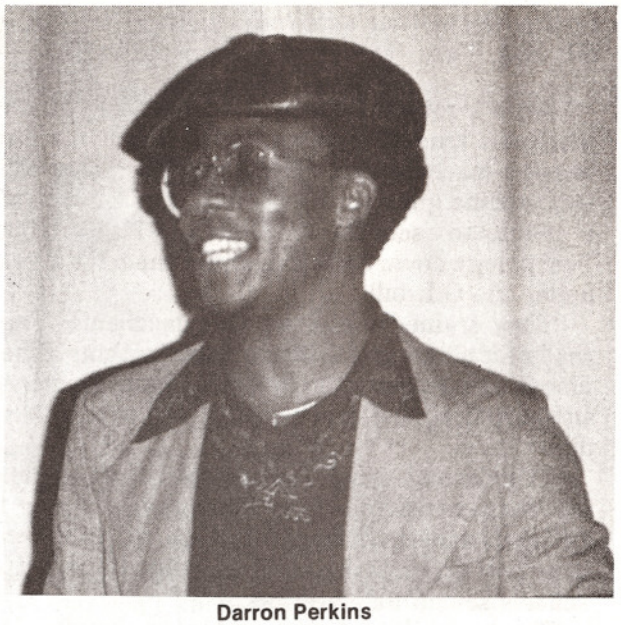
"Opportunity-wise we said O.K.; we'd try this school bit for awhile. We'd go and sign up and fill out the 7500 different forms to fill out for veterans' benefits. And we'd come back out of it, and if we'd left our name off of it or misspelled something, they'd hang us up. You couldn't survive on the little bit that they were paying you."

"Vietnam veterans have a responsibility to organize themselves to insure that they are never again used as cannon fodder to perpetuate America's corporate dream."

Darron Perkins, the co-ordinator of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, served in the Army in Vietnam in 1964 and 1965.

"Vietnam war veterans are unique among other American veterans; firstly, because they fought in the most unpopular war this country has ever been involved in and secondly, because they were the first group to ever suffer defeat in the arena of global warfare in which the United States continuously participates.

"In educational benefits, job placement and preference, housing and medical benefits —



Darron Perkins

veterans are told that the VA can provide some answers to these problems. Well, in reality it can provide substantial aid and assistance in all of the aforementioned areas of veterans' needs. The problem is that the Veterans Administration is an archaic, bureaucratic conglomeration of individuals who seem to make a concentrated effort to insure that the vet who comes in seeking help and information becomes engulfed in a myriad of forms, documents and administrative red tape. The VA bureaucrats have information at their disposal that they hoard worse than a miser hoards his gold. It would seem that because the VA receives new information every day concerning additional benefits and programs, they would quickly pass the information along to the veteran. Unfortunately, because of the many forms, applications and questionnaires that accompany any new program or benefit, the VA tends to withhold this information thereby saving itself the work it was created to do. Also, whenever by word of mouth a vet finds out about a new benefit, program, etc., it is usually too late to take advantage of it.

"In response to this particular problem veterans outreach centers should be established in the community, funded by the Veterans Administration with a stated purpose of making available to the vet all and any information, new and special programs, benefits, etc. that are pertinent to his survival. These centers, working hand in hand with the local community colleges, can go a long way toward making the promises made to Vietnam veterans a hard core reality.

"Vietnam veterans have a responsibility to organize themselves to insure that they are never again used as cannon fodder to perpetuate America's corporate dream."□

"OUR 3 YEAR PLAN FOR PEOPLE'S POWER IN CHICAGO"

Speech Given By ISC Co-ordinator Slim Coleman At The April Monthly Meeting Of The Uptown Tenants Survival Union

"Sometimes I think some of us are hard of hearing; others are near-sighted and need stronger glasses, and some of us have been staring off into the sun too long. Because someone is trying to give us a message, and we are not really paying attention. The ones trying to give us the message are men like Dick Daley and Gerald Ford and of course Rockefeller and the bankers and businessmen. They are trying to tell us that we are not needed. We are unnecessary in their scheme of things.

Coleman: "Someone is trying to give us a message."

"Everytime you get evicted from one of these buildings around here, you are being told you are not needed. They don't need you so they don't need to give you a house to live in. Everytime you get cut off of welfare or find a cut in those food stamps, they are trying to give you the message. 'They don't need us.' When they say the 35% unemployment we've got in these neighborhoods of ours is acceptable, they are ringing out the message loud and clear. 'They don't need us.'

"And when some of us pay attention to these messages they are sending, it makes us feel bad, because we feel like we're human beings and should have a place on this earth. But it should really make us feel even worse. We should pay attention to what people do with things they don't need. They sweep them under the rug. They put them in the attic or in the cellar or in the spare room or in the back of the closet, and they lock the door. They don't want things around that are in the way, and they are trying to give us the message we are in the way.

"But what they are telling us is a lie. It's a falsehood that just happens to fit their purpose, which is to make money. Because when they want to fight a war in Vietnam or Angola or Cuba to maintain their world empire, why then all of a sudden they need us. They need us on the battlefield. They need us in the trenches and in the jungle.

"When they want more babies to grow up and work the mines and mills and factories and inhale the coal dust and poisonous gases for nickels and dimes in multimillion dollar industries, then they need those women on welfare to raise those babies. When the few who have jobs threaten to go on strike for higher wages and better conditions, then they need us unemployed to

"The particular issue of our survival we are going to put on the ballot is housing; our right to stay in these neighborhoods with some jobs, or some guaranteed income and some decent housing."

threaten the strikers with, "Go back on the job or we'll give the unemployed your jobs." Then they need us. They change their tune. And our older citizens and those who have been disabled but are still young, they needed them to make the whole thing work. They sang a different tune then. But they want us to believe now that "They don't need us." They want to sweep us under the rug or put us down in the cellar and lock the door.

"Whenever we are confronted with an undesirable attitude, we have to make a decision and develop a plan of action. If someone really has an attitude about you why then you can't just walk away and ignore them because they will follow you and make an issue with you. They followed us here to Chicago from Kentucky and Texas and West Virginia and Mississippi and Puerto Rico. Fact is they were waiting for us when we got here; the rich and powerful, the fat cats in government. And they definitely have an attitude about us. They have the attitude that we are not needed, that they don't need us. And they want to sweep us out of the way.

"So we have to have a plan of action; not just for a day, because we have to live more than "just one day at a time, sweet Jesus." We have to live a lifetime. And so we need a lifetime plan, because these people have a lifetime attitude based on making money. In Chicago we are going to start with a three year plan; from 1976 to 1979 — three years. And our objectives at the end of the three years is to make our survival the main issue in this city. That means we have a plan to make sure that we cannot be ignored. 1979 is going to be the year that our survival is the main issue going.

"One of the ways our survival is going to be an issue is that it is going to be on the ballot. We are going to force them to put our survival on the ballot in 1979. I'm telling you it is going to have to be right there on the voting machine inside the polling booth behind that little curtain. It's going to have to be lever 1A. Pull 1A if you want to survive; pull 1B if you don't. Up 'til now our survival has not been an issue on the ballot. We haven't been there. There have been democrats on the ballot. There have been republicans on the ballot. There have been independents on the ballot. But our survival hasn't been there. There was not a place for us. But that is going to change. In 1979 we are going to be there.

"The particular issue of our survival we are going to put on the ballot is housing; our right to stay in these neighborhoods with some jobs, or some guaranteed income and some decent housing. Housing is going to be our survival issue because it is the main issue that is going on in this city, because this city has developed a 1966 comprehensive plan that has written between every line the determination that "we must go."

Those of us who came from the South, from Puerto Rico, off the reservation, and some of us who were already here, and worked to keep the economy going during World War II are a big problem to them now. That's how they view us — as a problem. We are all around the buildings that hold the offices and the executives that control industry, commerce and trade and high finance in the midwest. We have the votes. They are afraid we are going to jump out and attack them on their way in from the suburbs.

"We know the moves they have already made to move us out in line with their 1966 comprehensive plan; the housing they have torn down; the vacant lots; the highrises. And we know they are moving on public housing next, on Cabrini Green and Robert Taylor. And we know they are going to move Black people into Puerto Rican neighborhoods. And most of all they are going to force Blacks, Latinos and poor people into all-white neighborhoods on the northwest and southwest sides. And they are counting on racism and race war to keep us out of those neighborhoods so that poor people are fighting each other all the way out of the city with the bulldozer and the precinct captain sweeping up behind.

"And while those in power are building up and playing to the racism around the housing issue in Chicago, they are doing the same thing around other issues in other cities — like the issue of schools in Boston or in Louisville. They are planning war in Africa — in Zimbabwe and South Africa — and they will need to work up the racism at home so we will fight in Africa. When you're worried about keeping Black people out of your neighborhood, then you don't even mind sending your son to fight and die in Zimbabwe — until he's already dead. And when you are fighting Black people in Cicero or the northwest side, you don't care that an L.A. police spy just admitted to planning the assassination of George Jackson. The resistance of Black and Puerto Rican people to unemployment and poor housing and bad schools can be crushed, and you won't even mind because you're so busy protecting the "ethnic purity" of your neighborhood — even though you need some of those jobs and houses and better schools as well.

"So housing is going to be the key issue of survival that is going to have to unite us in 1979. We are saying 1979 because it is going to take us three years of organizing to make it the key issue and because 1979 is the right year for some changes to come about. There is going to be big shifting and shuffling around in 1979 between the high and mighty in this city. The Daley machine is splitting up into factions and fractions, with them all fighting like cats and dogs to get the biggest share of the pie. Metcalfe's election showed that the Daley clique has lost control over the Black community which is the biggest single sector of the people in this city. Poor and working people are the majority of the people, and when the reshuffling comes down in 1979 we need to be able to improve our position and our condition. We need to make our survival and our right to housing and jobs the main thing going.

"The way we are going to put our survival on the ballot in 1979 is to organize from the grass roots, from the neighborhoods, from the blocks and from the buildings. And while it is hard work, this organizing is a natural process. It is as natural as life itself, because we are organizing to survive on a day to day basis while we are organizing at the same time a three year plan to make our survival the issue in 1979.

Working on the food co-op: "Organizing is as natural as life itself."

"We can do these things. We can do fantastic things. We can build tenants unions that help us survive on a day-to-day basis."

"We are 'not going to overlook nobody,' because everybody needs to survive. That's what this tenants union in Uptown is all about. And that is what the other tenants unions throughout the city are all about that are being built; survival now and some people's power by 1979. Our tenants unions are going to grow strong because they deal with getting necessary food at cheaper prices through our food co-op. They deal with welfare problems, with stolen checks, with black lung benefits, with health care, with our community utilities pool to keep the gas and lights on, with getting lawyers and staying out of jail, with employment. In short, the tenants unions are organizations for survival. You know they had them in the thirties when times got hard like they are now. They called them organizations for the unemployed. When someone got evicted and the sheriff moved somebody out on the street, the whole neighborhood came out and moved them back in, and they kept moving them back in every time the sheriff moved them out until the landlord gave up. That was effective organization. And they marched on Washington and stayed there until they got some jobs. That is what we need to organize here in Chicago; an organization with the common purpose of survival and the common goal of unity and people's power.

"Building the food co-op that we have been talking about today and working on and making use of for the last month is an example of the kind of organization we need. And the dance next month is part of raising funds and pooling our community resources to make the co-op work more effectively. Then with the Union recruiting drive in May leading up to the tenants conference in June we have got to make our survival organization infectious. Everybody has got to catch it. It's got to be in the air. And in August we are going to have our second city-wide conference of tenants from all over the city to unify and make plans. Our plans will make it possible to light a fire in the frying pan the politicians and big wheeler dealers are sitting in. They are going to sizzle and pop in their own grease until they make survival — the right to stay in these neighborhoods and live in decent housing — the main issue in 1979.

"We can do these things. We can do fantastic things. We can build tenants unions that help us survive on a day-to-day basis. We can register to vote and get the power of the vote. We can confront the politicians and fry them in their own grease until we get a fair share of what we have a right to. But we have to organize. Nobody ever got anything without organizing people. Even Jesus who was a very powerful individual, the first thing he did was to get together an organization of twelve disciples. So let's get together and get to it. All Power to the People."□

Over 200 attended Country Music Saturday.

country music satupday

On May 1, over 200 enthusiastic community residents packed the hall at 4520 N. Beacon for the Intercommunal Survival Committee's Country Music Saturday. In response to many community requests, the ISC changed the time of the event from its regular 11 am. breakfast to a 4 pm. dinner.

Many community residents brought their "favorite dishes" to contribute to the dinner, resulting in a very diverse and delicious selection of foods. The dinner included chicken, ham, vegetables, potato salad, 20 different kinds of casseroles, homemade bread, cakes, pies and on and on.

Music was provided by popular community singer Kim Nash and young Gary Stromme who received a resounding applause for his rendition of the "House of the Rising Sun." The feature of the day was music by "Redhead" who played a wide selection of folk and country songs.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee will continue to hold its Country Music Saturday on the first Saturday of every month at 4520 N. Beacon at 4 pm. The next event will be held on June 5.

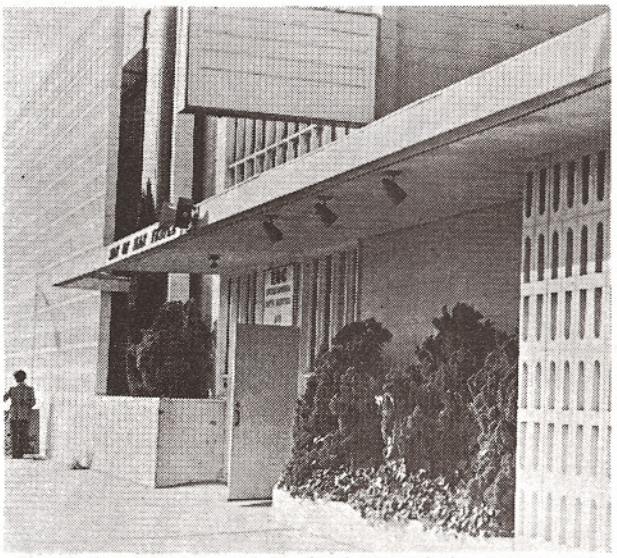
THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A MODEL EDUCATION

The Oakland Community School, now nearing the completion of its 5th year, is fast becoming the most studied school in the country. The state of California Department of Education has said that the Oakland Community School is one of the most important models in elementary education ever developed in the state and probably the country. It is an example of the kind of education which can be brought to the children of the country, especially the children of the poor and oppressed communities who generally receive a very poor quality of education. Children enrolled in the Oakland Community School perform consistently three to four years in advance of their public school peers.

This School is located in the heart of the oppressed community of East Oakland. It is a tuition-free, community-based school. It currently has an enrollment of 120 children between the ages of 2½ and 11. The children are placed in eight ungraded groups according to their skills and abilities. The School has succeeded in creating a total learning atmosphere in which parents, teachers and students can all participate fully. Its efforts to develop an institution which serves a child's physical, intellectual, psychological and social needs demonstrate the uniqueness of the School and give it the distinction of being a model School. It involves itself with all aspects of the children's lives. Health care and three nutritious meals a day are part of the regular program.

Ericka Huggins, Director of the Oakland Community School.



This school is located in the heart of the oppressed community of East Oakland.

The staff of the Oakland Community School which consists of 16 credentialed instructors and 13 volunteers of which only six are paid, work in teams of two in each of the eight groups. The staff are responsible to work with the children in the classrooms, at recreation, meal times and throughout the entire day. Ericka Huggins, the Director of the School, states that, "Our instructors are not just responsible for his or her particular class, but are expected to contribute to the total aspect of the School. Our teachers learn by doing. They are here because they want to be here. They have to be motivated by more than

"Our teachers must be committed to meeting the needs of the children."

just a paycheck; they must be committed to meeting the needs of the children."

Unlike most public schools the Oakland Community School holds weekly staff meetings and often finds it necessary to meet more often than once a week. The staff contributes ideas for fundraising, and along with the parents help provide transportation for the children to and from the School.

Parents are also very active in the School, providing aid in the classroom, offices, cafeteria and in writing proposals to obtain funding for the School. The children do not receive report cards, but are regularly evaluated in meetings that not only involve the parents and teachers, but also the children themselves.

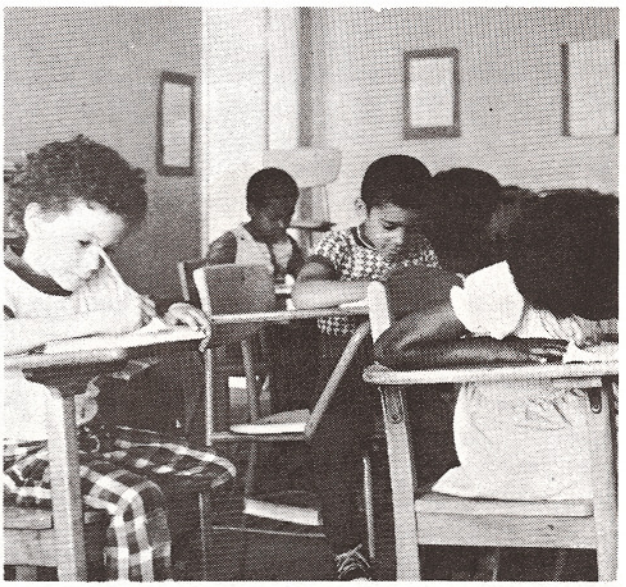
Under the leadership of its dedicated Director, Ms. Ericka Huggins, with the motto "the world is the children's classroom," the staff has worked diligently to create a model curriculum. They have succeeded in creating a learning atmosphere free of the sterile and abstract techniques found in the classrooms of so many public schools.

The curriculum includes Language Arts, Spanish, Mathematics, Social Science and Environmental Studies. None of these subjects are confined to the classroom, but numerous field trips, films and real life experiences are emphasized in order to teach the children to cope with real life situations. The philosophy of the School and therefore, the point of view from which all of the subjects are taught, is that the children should learn how to think and analyze for themselves and not be taught what to think or look at things from the teachers' limited point of view.

Morning exercises are held each day before classes begin.

Young performers in "February In Black People's History," an original school play.

The words of Huey P. Newton perhaps best sum up the purpose of the Oakland Community School; "The School is the realization of a dream, then, to repair disabled minds and the disenfranchised lives of this country's poor communities, to lay the foundation so as to create an arena for the world without such suffering. Our aim is to provide the young of these communities with as much knowledge as possible and to provide them with the ability to interpret that knowledge with understanding. For we believe without knowledge there can be no real understanding and that understanding is the key to liberation of all."□



A team of students at work in Language Arts class.

THE WORLD IS OUR CLASSROOM

Located on W. Lawrence Ave., Prologue High School describes itself as an "alternative school serving students who have been pushed out of the Chicago public school system." With an enrollment of some 45 students from the Uptown community Prologue offers courses in math, English, science and the social sciences. As one of its goals, the school tries to "integrate the classroom with the community and real life experiences."

Since some of the students are from the South and still have relatives living there, one of the classes at Prologue recently decided to take some time out from their regularly scheduled activities and visit West Virginia and Kentucky in order to compare living conditions. Pointing to the particular cultural backgrounds of many youth in Uptown whose families have links with the South one instructor emphasized the trip as a learning experience. "Culture is a very important aspect of anyone's life and education. This trip was one way that some of us could learn more about each other and the cultures we come from."

The most glaring reality they encountered was the complete control of the economy by the mining industry. Being told "that there just ain't no work around here but the mines" again and again, the students' investigation centered around the conditions of the mines, in particular the Scotia Mine.

On March 9, fifteen coal miners were killed in an explosion at the Scotia Mine in Oven Fork, Ky. Called both a "funny mine" and "outlaw mine" by people in the area because it has never been unionized, the blast occurred less than 24 hours after a federal mine inspector had cited a section of the mine for unsafe ventilation, high methane content in the air and poor dust control systems.

"This trip was one way that some of us could learn more about each other and the cultures we come from."

Two days after the initial explosion, eight more miners along with three federal inspectors were killed when a similar explosion occurred in the same mine that they were investigating to see if the shaft should be reopened.

Listening to a radio talk show in Louisville, the students heard miners call in criticizing the state inspectors as "greenhorns" and "too involved with politics." While placing more faith in the federal inspectors, the miners said that to tell the inspectors anything would be bad because "The company would make it so hard on you."

Working underground for long periods of time also affected many people's health. "The men who work underground for years and years come out with no health," said a veteran of 36 years. "I ain't got none. I used to draw black lung benefits but they cut me off." Deciding that the mines were too dangerous to work in, Phillip Sheppard, one of five students taking the trip offered the solution of "making the owners go down personally every two months to inspect the mines" as a way of ensuring safety.

Comparing other aspects of life, the students found food prices to be higher in the South, housing very scarce because of new highway development and the possibility of work slim. But despite these conditions many felt they would rather live there. "I'd rather be down there. There's no curfew and the police are a whole lot nicer. They don't push you as much as they do up here. If you have kids they can get out there and leave their toys outside overnight, and they won't be touched. Up here you lay something down for 15 minutes and it's gone."

Summing up their experience as an educational venture, one student, Donna said, "You don't really know if books are true or not, but if you see it in real life then you know it's true."□

KLAN INCREASES ACTIVITY

Ku Klux Klan activity in Harlan County, Ky. is increasing at an "alarming rate" with terrorism becoming very commonplace. According to the *Harlan Labor News*, a local newspaper, "The Klan is on the rampage and has driven two women, their six children and mother from their home." Charging that the police and coal company operators are part of the Klan conspiracy, the paper quotes one woman as saying, "We all know that the police are in on this. They just tell us to bolt up our doors. You know people can't live like this. And after that house up Holmes Mills was burned we were all scared to death." Coal company officials are said to be involved with the hiring of the Klan thugs in order to prevent opposition to unsafe working conditions in the mines and make union organizing very difficult.

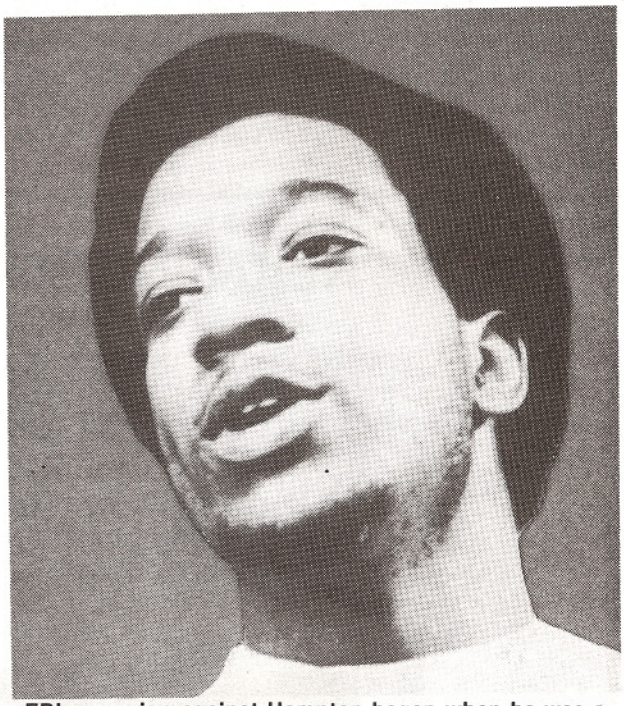
The Klan is on the rampage in Harlan County, Kentucky.

FBI TAKES CREDIT FOR HAMPTON—CLARK MURDERS

The FBI's role as an official government "murder, incorporated" was further revealed during last month's proceedings in the $47.7 million civil suit brought against 28 federal, state and local law enforcement officials by the families of slain leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the survivors of the December 4, 1969 raid. The new evidence came in the form of more internal FBI documents subpoenaed by the plaintiffs. For several months the FBI and the federal attorneys had defied a court order by Judge Samuel Perry to produce all the files in their possession relating to the case. Caught in their deception by attorney James Montgomery and his co-attorneys, the documents were produced only to be held and fed piecemeal to the plaintiffs by the aging federal judge in an obvious attempt to fragment the plaintiffs' case.

Among the thousands of documents finally turned over by the FBI is an air/tel memorandum from special agent Piper to the main office in Washington requesting that the informer O'Neal be rewarded with an increase in salary because of the valuable information he had provided. Piper maintains openly in the internal letter that O'Neal's information was the "sole basis" for the December 4 raid that ended in Fred Hampton's and Mark Clark's brutal deaths. The FBI has maintained up until now even during their testimony at two grand jury proceedings that they had little or no role in the raid.

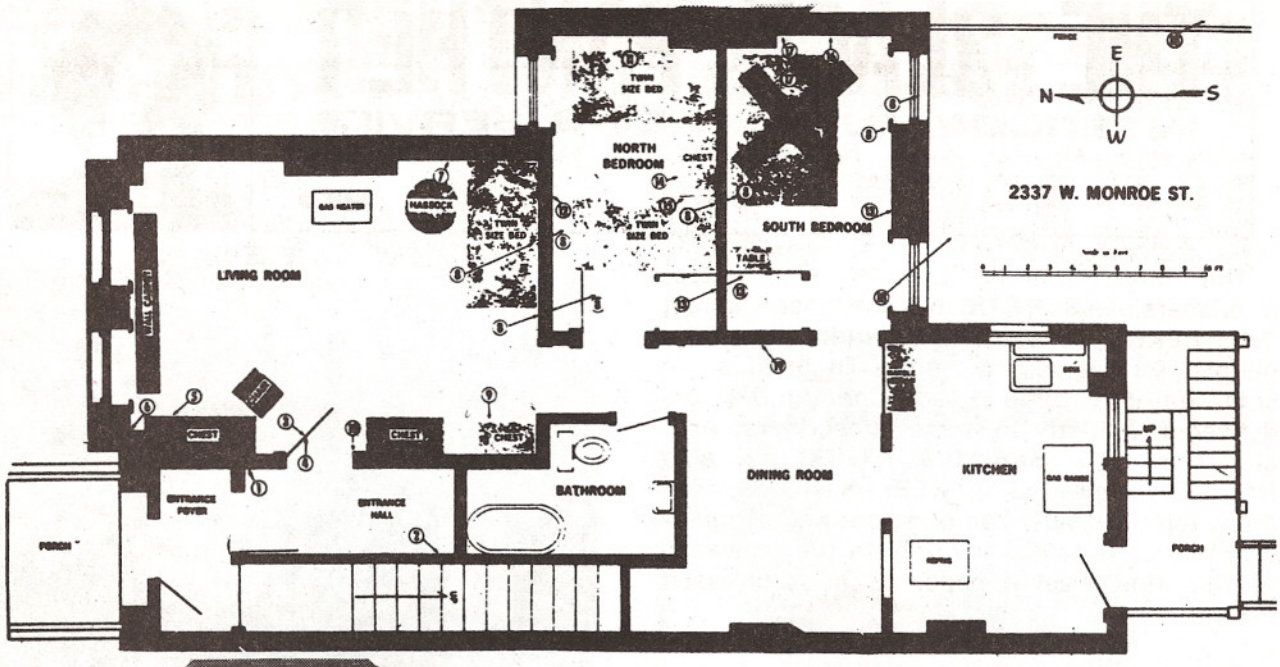
On the stand, Piper, who ominously stated that his last assignment in 1968 had been in "foreign intelligence," was asked why he termed the raid "successful." Was it because Fred Hampton was killed? Was it because the stated FBI objectives of preventing the rise of a Black messiah and crippling the Black Panther Party had been achieved with Hampton's murder? "No, of course not," said Piper.



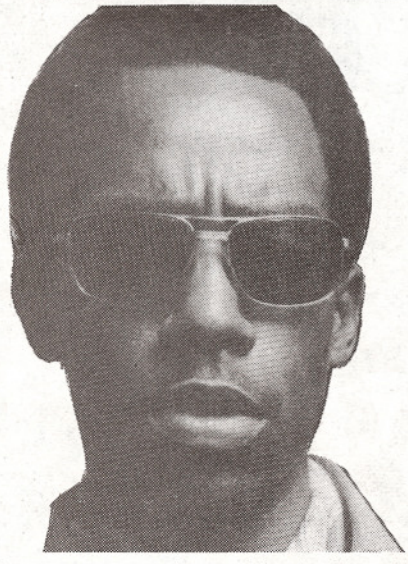
FBI campaign against Hampton began when he was a 19 year old NAACP youth leader.

Among the other revelations contained in the documents are: that in 1969, when he was a state official, present Cook County State's Attorney Bernard Carey intercepted 21 private letters mailed to Fred Hampton while he was a prisoner at Menard State Prison and provided copies of this mail to the FBI; that the FBI began an undercover surveillance campaign against Hampton in 1967 when he was a 19 year old NAACP youth leader in suburban Maywood, Illinois; that even more COINTELPRO documents are being withheld by the defendants and their federal attorneys in the case.

As the fraction of the documents turned over



FBI agent WILLIAM O'NEAL supplied layout of apartment where Fred Hampton was murdered in his bed, (see X) to Chicago FBI Racial Matters Squad.



revealed an apparently well-calculated plan on the part of the FBI to use local law enforcement officers in an overt assassination of Fred Hampton, public outrage grew and community and civic leaders demanded that all the documents be turned over immediately. The blatant concealment of evidence has prompted Illinois state senator Richard Newhouse and state representative Harold Washington to write to U.S. Attorney General Edward Levi demanding "a thorough public investigation" of the FBI's involvement in the 1969 raid.

The legislators also called for three assistant U.S. attorneys in the case to be relieved from their duties and "removed from the offices they have used to violate the law and the public trust." The existence of many more volumes of COINTELPRO (FBI counterintelligence programs aimed at the Black Panther Party) documents still withheld from the plaintiffs was admitted to last week by Richard Held, present Chicago FBI chief.

Special agent Piper's testimony will be concluded shortly as the last of the testimony by several FBI agents in the case. A striking presentation of evidence has shown that the FBI decided on, planned and put into action a program to destroy the Black Panther Party. Scores of documents have exposed attempts by the FBI to have the dynamic Fred Hampton killed by Chicago gang members. Failing in this, it appears that the FBI made the decision to have Hampton eliminated using local law enforcement agents. Although internal FBI reports show no evidence of illegal weapons in the Hampton apartment, the FBI allegedly provided information to state's attorney police that illegal weapons did exist. They also provided a detailed floorplan of the apartment with an "X" marking the spot where Fred Hampton slept. After the raid they consistently lied and concealed evidence of their involvement to two grand juries investigating the incident. The pattern of FBI "stonewalling" first denying aspects of their participation and then admitting it as they are confronted with the evidence can only lead the jury and the community at large to the conclusion that even more insidious plans and acts lie behind the cover-up.□

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢

The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 5 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony only to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Mission Impossible: Destroy The Black Panther Party

(San Rafael, Ca.) "Question: What was your last completed assignment? Answer: To assassinate George Jackson."

This exchange of words has uncovered what is being called "The most important story in California's and possibly the nation's law enforcement history in 30 years." Testifying at the San Quentin Six trial, Black former agent provocateur Louis Tackwood rocked both the court and the country with the testimony that for over two years he personally participated in a state law enforcement conspiracy to assassinate Black Panther Party Field Marshall George Jackson, as well as other leading members of the Black Panther Party including founder and chief theoretician, Huey P. Newton.

According to court observers Tackwood's testimony comes at a particularly devastating time for the prosecution. They say that after thirteen months of "hysterical prosecution lies and innuendoes" the state and possibly federal conspiracy to kill George Jackson is finally coming out.

The six Black and Brown defendants on trial, including Black Panther Party member Johnny Larry Spain, are being charged with murder, conspiracy and various other charges resulting from incidents which took place August 21, 1971, the day of the murder of George Jackson. They have been confined to the notorious Adjustment Center at San Quentin since before the incident took place almost five years ago.

In a brilliant courtroom maneuver, Charles Garry, the noted attorney and chief Black Panther Party counsel led off the session by asking Tackwood several questions establishing his background as an agent for the Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS) of the Los Angeles Police Department, then asked the now famous question:

GARRY:"Now, sir, can you tell the court and jury what was your last completed assignment here in northern California?"

TACKWOOD: "To assassinate George Jackson."

GARRY: "To do what?"

TACKWOOD: "To assassinate George Jackson."

GARRY: "You may cross-examine."

BPINS photo

Louis Tackwood: "To assassinate George Jackson."

Frantically trying to salvage their case, the prosecution immediately objected to the testimony, and a hearing took place outside the presence of the jury "to establish the relevance of the testimony."

During that hearing Tackwood disclosed that the CCS had infiltrated the Black Panther Party in both the Los Angeles and Bay Area. He also testified that the CCS assassination scheme called for Melvin "Cotton" Smith, like Tackwood an informant/provocateur, to kill Jackson on the 23rd when he was to be transported from San Quentin to San Francisco to appear in a trial there.

But the California State Bureau of Identification and Investigation in a case of departmental rivalry, jumped the gun. Tackwood said that as part of the plot on August 1, he and two other Los Angeles Police Department officers gave an inoperative .38 caliber snub nose revolver to a San Quentin guard to be placed outside the Adjustment Center. When news of the murder reached Los Angeles, Tackwood continued, Lt. Robert Keel, CCS officer in charge, responded,

"We got to get the gun out of there. This is a successful assignment but they always fuck up up North. It's a good thing we killed that Black bastard."

Despite threats from the trial judge of possible indictments, Tackwood has remained firm in his testimony saying that he welcomed a possible Marin County Grand Jury, "as long as my co-conspirators are indicted, too."

Meanwhile, in addition to devastating trial testimony, *The Black Panther Intercommunal News Service* recently held an exclusive interview with the former Black former agent provocateur. Through this source, previously suspected but undocumented evidence of nationally instigated, vicious attacks and murder against the Black Panther Party has been disclosed.

Starting with activities in late 1968 in Los Angeles, Tackwood revealed that the US organization (headed by Ron Karenga) had already been infiltrated and was being helped in every way possible by the LAPD. Referring to the police instigated war against the Black Panther Party, Tackwood commented, "During this period the police were shooting Panthers left and right, in cars or wherever they could catch them. They were shooting them down as fast as they could find them, and the verdict would always be 'justifiable homicide.' The US organization was ambushing Panthers, too, in this and that place. So it was a nice war."

Johnny Larry Spain, Black Panther Party member and one of the San Quentin Six.

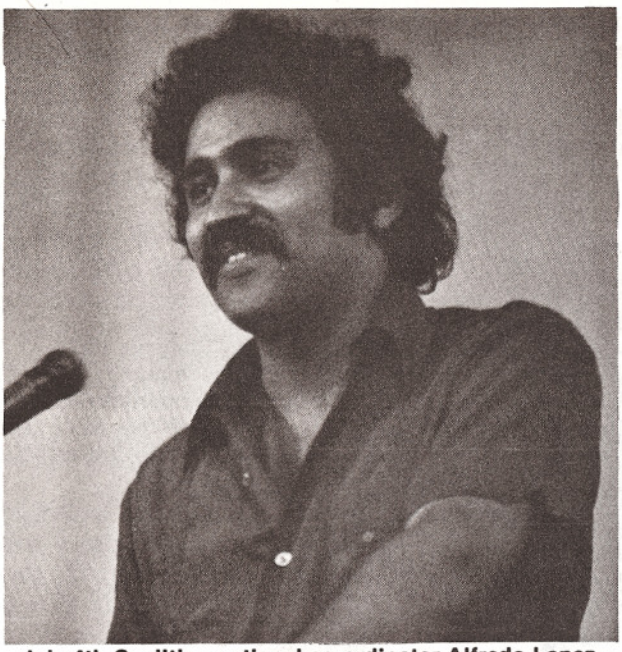
In mid-1969, the LAPD was responsible for rumors circulated among organized crime figures in New Orleans that one of their high-ranking chieftains was murdered by Panthers. The intent of the rumor as reported by Tackwood was "to use the Mafia to kill the Panthers."

Finally, describing a nationally organized effort beginning in the late 60's, by the FBI and police intelligence agencies to "destroy the Panthers by any means possible," Tackwood identified their three prerequisites or guides to action: "Number one, total harassment; to conquer or defeat any organization you must harass them; defeat them financially, number two; and after all else fails, place defeat in their minds."□

200 Years And Still Not Free!

(Chicago, Ill.) According to official government plans, the Pope, the Queen of England and the President of the United States will all be present in Philadelphia to celebrate this country's "bicentennial." However, according to plans made at a recent national conference of over one hundred progressive organizations and at local coalition meetings in over 50 cities after the conference, there will be another celebration, more relevant to the history and present struggle for survival of poor and working people everywhere.

The July 4th Coalition, officially kicked off at a well-attended national conference in March, hopes to unite progressive-thinking people involved in all areas of struggles for a better life to make clear that the fight for full freedom in this country has not yet been won. Coalition spokespersons point out that the official government demonstration in Philadelphia is not "an empty ceremony." Just as Hitler felt it necessary to mobilize massive street demonstrations to



July 4th Coalition national co-ordinator Alfredo Lopez, speaking in Chicago.

Jack Spiegel, Chicago union activist, commits support to July 4th mobilization.

show support for his developing "third reich," so Gerald Ford is mobilizing visible support for his policies of "acceptable" unemployment; cuts in federal money for basic services; repression against justice-seeking organizations including assassinations like those of George Jackson and Fred Hampton; wholesale denials of basic civil rights; and the continued effort to dominate Africa, Asia and Latin America by every means at this government's disposal.

In this light, coalition organizers point out, it becomes even more critical that those who oppose Ford's policies and the direction this country is going in be heard loud and clear in Philadelphia where the attention of much of the world will be focused on July 4. The "people's July 4 demonstration" will demand a bicentennial without colonies, protection of basic democratic rights and jobs for all with an end to the brutal cutbacks in services now going on.

This enormous national undertaking will really start in May as American Indians, this country's oldest colonized people, begin to mobilize in caravans from California, New Mexico, Colorado and other historic points of bitter struggles for survival of the Native American nations.

Joining the Indian Nations in Philadelphia will be thousands of Puerto Ricans demanding independence for their island from U.S. colonial rule and equal justice for Puerto Ricans in this country.

Noting that the work of unifying so many forces and people struggling around different issues is very demanding, national co-ordinator Alfredo Lopez explained at a July 4th Coalition rally in Chicago last month that the task of building local coalitions in the over fifty cities has been surprisingly successful. Rank and file union leaders, community organizations, welfare rights organizations, tenants unions and women's groups are all coming together to form a new unified movement for change in this country. The challenge of creating a "people's voice" during the bicentennial on July 4 is convincing people to put aside small differences and establish a broad unity.□

N.Y. Police Attack Hostos College

(New York City, N.Y.) Arresting forty-six people, using "military type operations," New York City police forcibly ejected students occupying Hostos Community College in the South Bronx. The police assault ended a 20 day takeover of the predominantly Black and Latino school.

In the face of cutbacks by the city's Board of Higher Education, some 2,000 students supported by both the faculty and the community took over the college in order to continue their education and establish " a center for struggle."

Students and community supporters rallied to keep Hostos College open.

"We are trying to build a whole new type of institution now. It's a pretty historic takeover in the sense that classes are still being run," stated Hostos professor Ramon Jimenez when the college was occupied in mid-March.

The takeover was prompted by a Board of Education announcement that it had informally agreed to accept the bulk of a plan by City University Chancellor Robert J. Kibbee which included the closing of several college facilities, ending open admissions and imposing tuitions.

If initiated, "The Kibbee Plan" will drop over 30,000 students out of the university system by next fall. Under the proposal three campuses (Hostos, Richmond, and John Jay) will be closed, and York and Medgar Evers will be downgraded from four to two year schools. With the exception of one campus all the schools affected have majority Black and Puerto Rican enrollments.

According to observers present, the police action was unnecessary as the school was functioning smoothly and providing for the needs of the students. They say that not only were classes proceeding on schedule, but participants had also maintained security, set up day care facilities, organized new classes and carried out the administration of the college.

In response to the city's action, students and community supporters rallied on the steps of city hall vowing to continue their fight against the cutbacks, and to keep the badly needed school open.

The cutbacks have been criticized as payment mandated by the enormous interest charged for city loans from the major banks. Speaking against the Board of Education plan, Dr. Belle Zeller, chairperson of the Professional Staff Congress, a 7,000 member union, called the proposals "an educational and racial rip-off. The cuts," she said, "were a demand from the politicians for blood and sacrifices from the young people of our city, especially the minority groups."□

Co-op City's Massive Tenants Strike In 11th Month

(New York City, N.Y.) Maintaining "an incredible solidarity" despite intense state and city repression, tenants at New York City's massive Co-op City housing project have entered their 11th month of what has become the longest rent strike in American history.

Tenants at the 300 acre housing project have withheld more than $20 million in rent from the Co-op City management, instead making their checks out to "Steering Committee III," a tenant organization leading the strike. Over 80% of the tenants are withholding their rent.

The strike began in June, 1975 as the tenants refused to pay rent in protest of a 25% rent increase imposed by the management with state approval. The proposed increase was the latest in a series of rent hikes that had more than doubled the rents of the 15,372 families since 1969. It was to have been only the first installment of a projected 86% rent increase by 1980.

But according to the tenants the increases were only "the spark that started the fire." They say that the reason for the increase was to pay off a mortgage that had more than doubled during the development's construction. Pointing to the mismanagement and fraudulent practices of the United Housing Foundation, the group which sponsored the housing project, organizers charge that a full 67% of the present rent goes to pay off the mortgage.

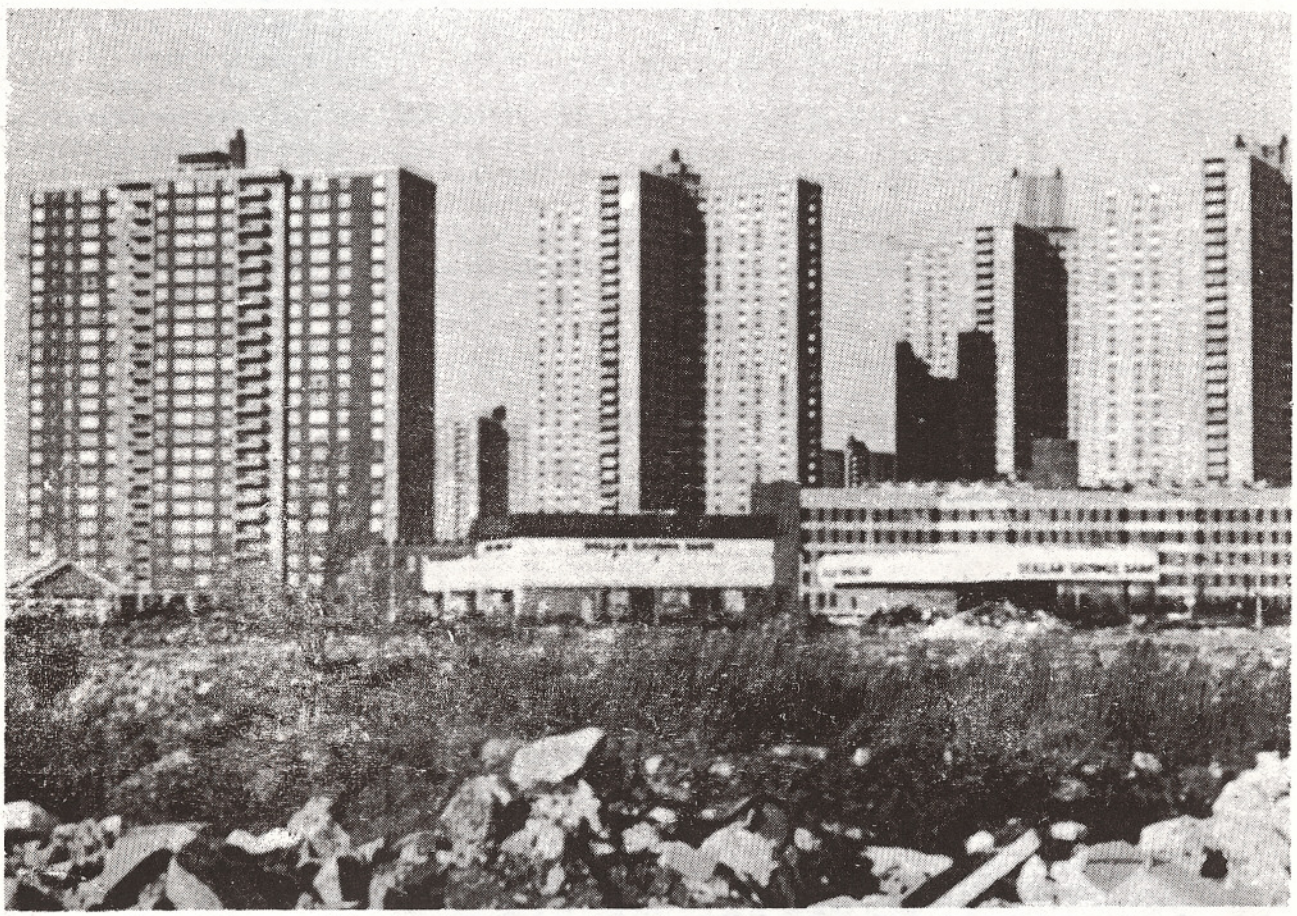
While the state says that the rents must be raised to prevent the closing of the projects, tenants say this is not true and have developed a comprehensive 22 point plan to save Co-op City and provide for tenant control.

Refusing to even consider this proposal, the state has instead launched a campaign aimed at crippling the strike and jailing its leaders. Issuing court orders and injunctions, fines surpassing millions of dollars, threatening cutoffs of heat and hot water, and bringing court action against the leaders, the powerful state bureaucracy has tried in vain to stop the growth of the strike.

Summing up the tenants' conviction, Charles Rosen, chairperson of the Steering Committee III, stated at a recent rally, "We will not be willing slaves. We will stand up and fight. All they (city banks) want is our money."

The strike is expected to last until the state housing authority agrees to the tenants' plan for control and development.□

We would like to thank *The New York City Star* and *Liberation News Service* for the information in this article.·



Co-op City: over 80% of the tenants are withholding their rent going into the eleventh month.

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Armed Struggle In Zimbabwe Gains World-Wide Support

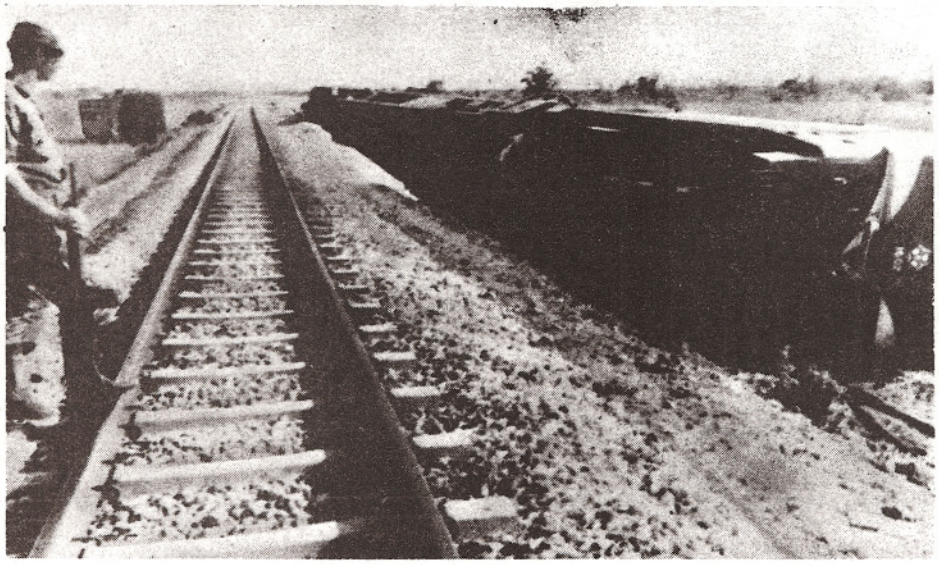
The only way the situation in Rhodesia can be solved is through armed struggle.

Rhodesia's main highway to South Africa remained closed, and trains to South Africa stopped running last week in the aftermath of a stunning major new offensive launched by Black Zimbabwean (Rhodesian) liberation forces operating in the southwestern part of the country.

Black freedom fighters struck a severe blow to the economy of the white minority government of Rhodesia when they not only cut off access to the main road to South Africa, but also blew up a part of the railroad line to South Africa. Since Mozambique closed its borders to Rhodesia last March 5, the only remaining route to the sea for the racist Rhodesian government has been through South Africa via this railroad.

The situation has become more and more precarious for Rhodesia's 270,000 whites who rule the 5.7 million Black Zimbabweans of this country. Recently in an obvious attempt to buy time, co-opt the growing Black liberation movement and stem the tide of world opinion which is increasingly demanding an end to this racist rule by Rhodesian whites, the fascist Smith regime has called for negotiations with the Black freedom fighters. The American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger recently visited Southern Africa in an attempt by the U.S. government to convince Smith that he must soften his position somewhat and allow a few token Blacks into his govenment if he expects to survive much longer. The American plan is to offer to the Black people of Zimbabwe some government positions in return for ending their war of liberation. This would also, hopefully take some of the spotlight off of the obviously racist nature of Smith's government.

The response to all of this by the Black



Trains to South Africa stopped running last week in aftermath of major offensive by Zimbabwe liberation forces.

freedom fighters has been an increase in armed guerrilla activities. It is their position that the only way the situation in Rhodesia can be solved is through armed struggle, to put an end forever to the fascist, racist rule of this white minority. This position is gaining increasing support throughout Africa and the rest of the world.

Recently Salim Salim of Tanzania, Chairperson of the United Nations Decolonization Committee told a press conference that the committee has reached the same conclusion. Salim said that "any further attempt to talk with Smith would no

Recently Salim Salim of Tanzania, Chairperson of the United Nations Decolonization Committee told a press conference that the committee has reached the same conclusion. Salim said that "any further attempt to talk with Smith would not only be futile, but a talk with death — which is impossible."□

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CIA Behind Cuban Fishing Vessel Attacks

(Havana, Cuba) - Just two days after Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro threatened to end the U.S.-Cuba hijacking agreement if attacks on Cuban fishing vessels continued, a Cuban exile and former CIA operative surfaced in Cuba and made revelations of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) involvement in these attacks.

Last Monday, Fidel announced during a rally in Havana, "if aggressions against Cuban fishing vessels do not cease, it will be the end of the Cuban-American agreement on maritime and aerial hijackings." (Fidel refers to the 1973 agreement made by the U.S. and Cuba to cooperate in opposing hijackings.)

The most recent attack on Cuban fishing vessels took place April 8 when the Ferro Cemento 119 vessel was fired upon and sunk. Surviving Cuban fishermen escaped in a small raft. One Cuban was killed during this attack.

After Fidel threatened to end the hijacking agreement, U.S. press secretary Ron Nessen announced that the U.S. would investigate the raids. However, even before these investigations could get underway, Manual de Armas revealed last Wednesday during a television press conference that he had infiltrated groups in the U.S. for the CIA and that all anti-Castro groups are financed, directed and controlled by this U.S.-based intelligence agency. Asked whether the CIA had prior knowledge of attacks by these groups against Cuban fishing boats, he answered: "Yes, definitely." One such Miami-based group, the "Cuban National Liberation Front," took credit for the April 8 attack.

De Armas further revealed that he had worked for the CIA from 1969 until 1974, but that his last assignment for the agency was early this year, just before he returned to his native Cuba.

De Armas' revelations only confirm CIA involvement in attacks Cuban authorities have long believed were carried out by U.S.-based groups of anti-Castro exiles led by the CIA.□

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

LORETTA LYNN: COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER

Long time favorite of country music fans everywhere, Loretta Lynn was on Chicago's northside last month to introduce her new book *Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter*. The book, which is now available only in hardbound cover, is moving and an education to read, not only because of its insights into country music and the life of Ms. Lynn herself, but because of its insights into all of our lives. In Loretta's own words the book tells about learning how to survive.

"Learning how to survive" starts in Butcher Holler, Kentucky, with a big family on a coal miner's pay during the depression. Loretta's memories are of hard times and biscuits and gravy, but they are also of the self-reliance that is the roots of all of us who have come to the city from the country. Country people always seem to make do; saving, planning, canning, cutting and sewing, working together as well as cutting up and acting crazy from time to time. But learning to survive is learning how the system works — jobs, marriage, health care, schools and finally the world of music. As Loretta learns how these things work, she learns how to deal with them to get what she wants.

She tells more in the book than in the words to her songs, although the feeling communicated in her songs tells it all. A chapter entitled "Hey, you ain't supposed to wear clothes under your nightgown" tells how she got married at the age of thirteen before she knew what it was really all about, then found herself a woman of nineteen with four kids and the responsibility for raising them. She is frank about marriage: it has its ups and downs, and she makes no bones about women being used, told what to do, where, when, and how, without being given the freedom to determine their own destiny, make their own decisions. When she recorded her now famous song about "The Pill," she was talking about the need and right of women to make their own choices, and the book shows she speaks from experience.

The book keeps coming back to the oppression

Loretta Lynn in Chicago introducing her new book.

of the men who work in the mines and their families, about what this country has done to the Indian people and about racism against Black people. Her own opinions are formed from experience, and you can't help but feel the frustration at not being able to say more about these things in the songs she writes. But "Nashville" is a hard master and a tough censor. If she is warned by the Nashville bigshots against kissing Black country singer Charlie Pride on the stage, what would happen if her songs talked about the murder of Fred Hampton or George Jackson?

When you have read her book, you will know that Loretta Lynn has neither found peace nor freedom by making it in country music. She has learned how to survive, and she is proud of that, and that is the pride we feel in her music. Still to find freedom to do and say the things we all want to do and say, we are going to have to find a way to "make it" all together.□

"Well, I look out the window, and what do I see?
The breeze is a blowin' the leaves from the trees.
Everything is free — everything but me . . ."
Loretta Lynn

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There is so much coal dust in these old lungs of mine
But maybe it was our mistake when we brought out the coal that the mountains hide.
But I have to keep on trying to breathe and work
To raise these poor kids of mine.
And maybe it was our mistake but it was our only way to survive —
And maybe some day we will refuse to work
And just let the coal stay inside
Until they give us black lung benefits with all the strings untied
So we know in the future they will be a sure thing
So when our lungs are too full of coal dust for us to work
Our families will still be able to survive.

So maybe it was our mistake to bring out the coal that the mountains hide
But I sure hope someday we come out on top and will not have to listen to our children cry.
And maybe the operators will come to see the coal that is making them rich
Is also taking many of our lives.
So maybe it was our mistake to bring out the coal that the mountains hide.

Judy Branham
Chicago Area Black Lung Association
April 12, 1976

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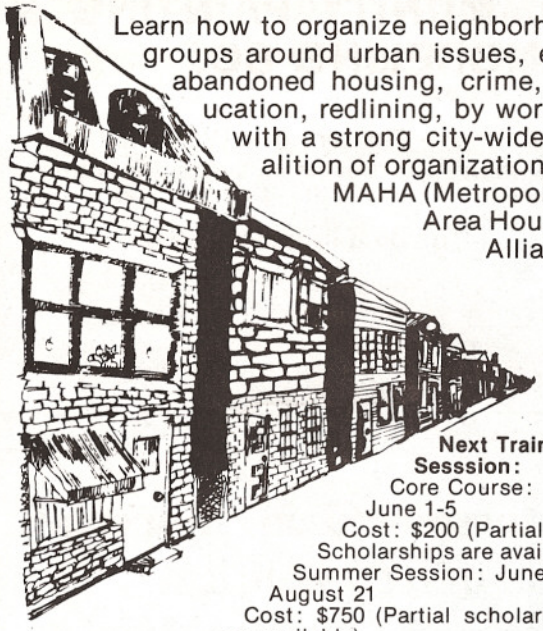

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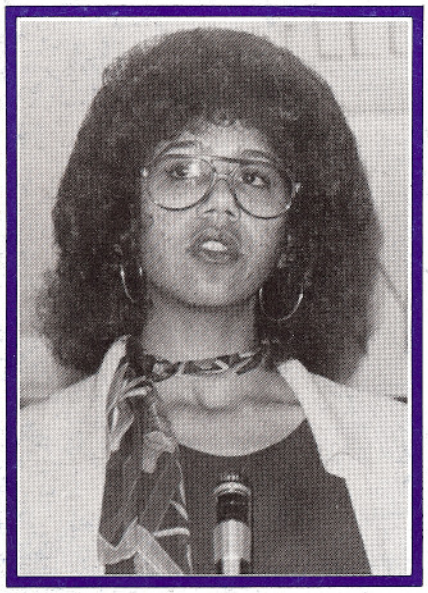

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